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DAILY REPORT

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MAGALHAES PINTO RELEASES PRESIDENTIAL PLATFORM

PY022116Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Mar 78 p 8 PY

[Text of presidential platform issued by Senator Magalhaes Pinto in Rio de Janeiro on 28 February]

[Text] This is an hour of decision. We have to precisely define concrete problems in straight language.

I refuse to accept the idea that our people are incapable of deciding their own destiny. This idea is just a camouflage for the establishment of outright dictatorships or other forms of tutelage and usurpation. Our history proves what we are and what we can do. We have already overcome obstacles much more difficult than the ones lying ahead of us.

Therefore, the first problem stems from current events. Decisions must be taken by the whole nation, because both civilians and army personnel owe allegiance to the same flag and are pressing toward the same objectives. Our people have always met the demands of each period of our country's history. Governing minorities, on the contrary, have not been up to those demands and this is the risk we are running today. The March 1964 revolution of which I was the civilian leader resulted from the distortions of our political system which had gotten behind economic and social changes, as well as from the lack of authority which created chaos and threatened our democratic institutions. Now, 14 years later, we have not yet solved problems which clearly existed at that time and we have dangerously departed from the initial objectives.

The significance of this preliminary platform, which is not yet a finished and complete program, is to set our aims clearly and to join efforts.

Direct Elections Even for the Nation's President

1. We must raise the social and political level of the country to the height of its economic level. This is the fundamental task which must be undertaken first, before any other.

It is high time to let the people's will prevail, since that will is the only source of legitimate power. No democratic state can exist without the free verdict of the people through the ballot box. In our midst, however, the vote is not free. Political manifestations are restricted. It is practically impossible to organize political parties and laws are manipulated so as to insure that power stays within a closed circle. No democratic regime exists if everyone is not equally protected or restrained by the laws. In our country the executive branch has placed itself above the laws and it can change the country's constitution at its own discretion. Millions of Brazilians have never had the opportunity to elect the nation's president or state governors--and they never will, by virtue of the institutional acts now in force.

It is inadmissible that, almost half a century after the 1930 revolution which took place to prevent a president from imposing his own successor on the nation, the country should retreat into the past and bend its head to the will of one man alone.

We call for free, equal, universal and direct vote; for the organization and untrammeled activities of democratic parties; for the untouchability of political mandates; and for the effectiveness of the federative principle which is fading through an economic and political centralizing usurpation. It will be impossible, without adopting these measures, to bring the majority of our people and particularly the new generations into the political process. Power must be restored to the legislative and judiciary branches, with all their authority, freeing them from the restraints under which they are functioning.

Elimination of AI-5, Law 477 and Constitutional Article No 185

2. The establishment of a democratic society demands the elimination of AI-5, Law 477 [which prohibits political activities in universities and labor unions] and Article 185 of the constitution which perpetuates punishment under the pretext of regulating it. It also requires the restoration of habeas corpus, the independence of court magistrates, the recognition that not even a law can preclude from judicial scrutiny any violation of rights and the cancellation of measures curtailing freedom of thought and information. Such measures, particularly those of arbitrary and discriminatory censorship, hinder scientific research, artistic creativity, and keep the university from fulfilling its social function.

Freedom for Unions and Academic Administration

3. Just as it is essential to guarantee all aspects of political life, it is also necessary to insure freedom for union organization, even in rural areas, and to return to the student movement the right to establish its own representative entities. In both cases, it is not enough to stop openly oppressive actions; the paternalistic protection of the Labor and Education and Culture Ministries, the heritage of the new stage's dictatorship needs to be obliterated.

Human Rights

4. Human rights go beyond guarantees of physical integrity and defense against authoritarian violence. They imply a standard of living compatible with our civilization in health, in every person's right to be educated and to find work, and in respect for the individual by recognizing that the state is not an end, but a means to serve the community. Religious institutions, and in particular the Catholic Church, have distinguished themselves in this area.

Amnesty

5. If a house remains divided, it collapses. The immensity of the tasks we have yet to fulfill demands national pacification. For the majority of our people, the causes of the crises of the 50's and 60's belong to a remote past. The 1964 revolution has to be assimilated, as were the 1930 revolution and 1the 1945 movement. Therefore, it is essential to erase the scars of misunderstanding through amnesty.

Democratizing Reforms

6. We are a strong state and a weak people. The country needs political reform which will shift decisionmaking to the people. Time is running out and what we do not do today we will pay for tomorrow with much higher social costs.

Plebiscite To Legitimize Indirect Elections

7. The reforms which the executive branch dictated in April of last year separated the society from the state even further, created new sources of conflict and profoundly affected the branch's legitimacy. To revoke them is an imperative national aspiration. It is the moral duty of the future president to propose a national consultation in order for the people to express their opinion regarding his continuance in the post, as well as that of indirectly elected governors and senators.

Income Distribution and End to Monetary Adjustments

8. The undeniable acceleration in economic development does not hide other aspects of reality, including the exaggerated concentration of income in regional and social terms. It is not enough to show off general data concerning the growth of the national product or per capita income. These hide injustice because they say nothing about the distribution of wealth. Neither is it possible to reconcile such contradictory terms as the monetary adjustment of the housing development system and the restraints on worker salaries and wages of public servants, whose readjustment has never restored real value while the cost of living has worsened.

Agrarian Reform

9. The constantly postponed changes of the agrarian structure are indispensable for the protection of our industrial and agricultural output in addition to being essential for the expansion of our domestic market.

10. Excessive financial costs and taxes undermine the national enterprises. This is leading to the undesirable growth of state intervention and the aggressive presence of international enterprises in our economy.

There is little doubt that we need the contribution of foreign capital, especially risk capital, which could participate in our efforts and obtain a legitimate profit. It does not benefit us if they come and purchase our enterprises or become agents of foreign indebtedness.

The size of our foreign debt is an evergrowing source of concern, in addition to having become a decisive factor in our economic and financial policy.

It has become necessary to draw up laws to regulate the terms under which foreign capital can come into the country, laws which could free us from dependency on foreign centers of power. Thus, it has become vital to implement an effort aimed at uniting those who have nationalistic awareness in order to further the creation of a prosperous and free society.

Improvement of Living Conditions in the Cities

11. The urban problem has reached an alarming magnitude. Sixty percent of all Brazilians live in cities lacking the appropriate infrastructure capable of servicing the large population. The high crime rate and veritable legions of abandoned minors cannot, for the above reasons, be considered mere police cases subject to simple repression. They are, among other things, the results of the lack of an appropriate job-creating policy. There is no need for industrialization or urbanization to create so many distressing problems, nor do they have to lead to a pitiless destruction of the environment.

Exploitation of New Sources of Energy

12. The still to be solved energy problem, in spite of the great efforts which have been made, is worsened by expensive oil imports, the delays in national research programs and the constantly decreasing possibilities for new hydroelectric programs. Thus, in addition to the installation and expansion of nuclear plants--guaranteeing transference of technology and self-sufficiency--we must step up the implementation of alternative solutions.

An Independent Foreign Policy

13. Being a Western nation, part of Latin America and the Third World, which has a strong affinity with Africa, we wish to renew and consolidate age-old alliances and we refuse to accept international trade as being the means of exploitation of developing and preindustrial nations.

The people cannot be motivated by imbuing them with mistrust, limiting their expression, or subjecting them to any kind of control. My candidacy is an act of faith in our capability to build a prosperous, just and tolerant society. At every critical moment, Brazil has been able to join forces and open a road for itself. It will do the same now.

MAGALHAES NAMES SEVERO GOMES RUNNING MATE

PY0801402 Paris AFP in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo, 7 Mar--Senator Magalhaes Pinto, the civilian candidate for Brazil's presidency, announced today that his partner as vice president will be former Industry and Commerce Minister Severo Gomes.

Gomes resigned in February 1977, apparently at the request of President Ernesto Geisel, because of his opposition to the alinement of the economic policy of the government.

GAS TALKS WITH BOLIVIA RESUME IN RIO

PY7 850Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1559 GMT 7 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 7 Mar--The negotiations on the gas agreement between Brazil and Bolivia were resumed here today. On the Brazilian side the talks are led by Paulo Vieira Belotti, director of the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation [PETROBRAS], and on the Bolivian by Col Carlos Morales.

In the Bolivian city of Cochabamba, the two countries signed an agreement in 1975, under which Bolivia made a commitment to deliver 240 million cubic feet of gas per day to Brazil for 20 years. On the other hand, Brazil promised to install an industrial zone in the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and to buy part of its production.

According to a member of the Brazilian delegation, the two countries will discuss, in the talks initiated today, the price per cubic foot of the gas to be delivered. One Brazilian offer to Bolivia sets the price between $0.90 and $1 per cubic foot, the same price Argentina is now paying for gas it buys from Bolivia.

An editorial in Rio de Janeiro newspaper recently blamed the Bolivians for the standstill in the negotiations on the gas agreement asserting that "the pressures from opposition groups were sufficiently strong to bring the talks to a standstill, since it was alleged that President Hugo Banzer was delivering gas to Brazil without getting anything in return."

ARGENTINE PROPOSAL REJECTED IN PARANA TALKS

PY040206Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 3 Mar 78 p 18 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--Brazil rejected an Argentine proposal to increase the number of turbines for Itaipu in exchange for letting Corpus have a height of approximately 120 meters. During the bilateral talks held over the past 2 days in Brasilia, it became clear, Brazilian delegates said frankly, that Brazil would agree only to a height of 102 meters for Corpus in exchange for "reasonable" operational flexibility for Itaipu. This decision was made by President Ernesto Geisel himself.

Yesterday, at the end of the second meeting they held in 2 days, both the Brazilians and Argentines declined to comment on the talks. Both parties chose to use diplomatic rhetoric about "their optimism over the future." In fact, despite some progress in the reconciliation of technical data, there was a setback in their efforts toward a political agreement.

The relative failure of the bilateral talks was attributed to Argentine insistence that Brazil increase the number of turbines for Itaipu.

The Argentines sought to avoid discussion of the height of Corpus, noting that because this issue has become excessively "politicized and radicalized," it could elicit reaction from radical sectors in both countries. Brazil rejected this contention by noting that it is not possible to discuss the integration of the two hydroelectric projects without focusing directly on the height of Corpus, which could be detrimental to Itaipu's operational flexibility.

Brazil rejected the Argentine proposal to increase the number of turbines, contending that the energy produced by the additional turbines would be too costly. The additional turbines would increase the cost of Itaipu, because new powerhouses and another transmission line would have to be built, and half of the energy would belong to Paraguay by treaty.

ARMS FIRM GIVEN RIGHT TO DEAL WITH FOREIGN FIRMS

PY021612Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Mar 78 p 26 PY

[Text] Many times we have had the opportunity to note that the Brazilian Armed Forces fully understand the role played by foreign capitals in economic development and the reduction of regional and social shortcomings. We have also had several opportunities to note that both President Ernesto Geisel and Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo are fully aware of the importance which multinational enterprises play in the strengthening of Brazil's position within the framework of world economy. Should we have no cooperation from foreign capitals, Brazil's transition from a developing to a fully developed country would take much longer.

In this regard the role played by IMBEL (war material industry), the civilian industry which has the closest ties with the army, is very constructive and positive. In fact, the latest meeting of the high command established the appropriate conditions to allow IMBEL to go into partnership with foreign enterprises. In other words, this state enterprise will follow the equally positive example of PETROBRAS by participating in the activities of multinational enterprises.

We are sure that this measure will soon decrease the dependency of our armed forces on the imports of war material, with a resulting positive effect on trade and payment balances. Thus, everything seems to indicate that within a very short time we will be able to begin exporting such "commodities" to various countries of this continent and also to Africa and Asia.

We believe that the military power of a country depends less on the number of men under arms than on the degree of mechanization. There is no doubt that the new opportunities which the federal government has given IMBEL will strengthen Brazil's position as the greatest economic and military power in Latin America. In sum, the removal of nationalistic prejudices is beneficial to the country in every aspect.

O GLOBO CAUTIONS AGAINST DAMAGING TIES WITH U.S.

PY080336Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 7 Mar 78 p 1 PY

[Editorial: "The Peaceful Way"]

[Text] The Brazilian-FRG nuclear agreement will be obviously strengthened as a result of President Geisel's visit to the FRG. This agreement in particular and overall relations between the two countries in general will benefit from this diplomatic initiative which will be undertaken in the FRG by the chief of the Brazilian Government, six state ministers and by several dozen Brazilian businessmen, who will maintain direct contacts with the leading officials of our great European partner.

We must not, however, indulge in the temptation of converting this nuclear association, which will thus be reaffirmed and reinforced, into some sort of Brazilian challenge to the international pressure exerted on our joint program in the area of nuclear technology, especially by the United States. In the first place, this position would not be in keeping with the country's diplomatic tradition. Furthermore, if we maintained this position we would not be taking the course of action which would best meet Brazilian interests and commitments in the Western world, where we should not make decisions excluding any partner, but rather should try to reconcile the various alternatives.

Today the FRG is an excellent international partner for Brazil, not only because of the volume and growing quality of our bilateral trade or of our cooperation programs, the highest expression of which is the nuclear agreement, but because the FRG is, among the developed nations, the one which has shown greatest understanding and receptiveness toward the problems afflicting the devloping nations. In the European economic market and in the North-South dialog as well, the FRG has always maintained a liberalizing position. This FRG foreign goal, which is in keeping with its domestic democratic pluralism, has already resulted in specific proposals of the highest significance for creating a new world economic order, such as the proposal for creating an international system for the stabilization of exports, primarily of raw materials. Showing sparkling prosperity, added to the social gains stemming from a just distribution of income ($9,000 per capita), the FRG has thus far been able to avoid protectionist and discriminatory policies in its foreign trade.

These advantages should not, however lead us to the conclusion that we should form a single bloc with the FRG to eliminate, or even to downgrade our American partner. Our ties with the United States are so deeply rooted and intertwined, and offer such prospects, that the above theory would be irrational and fantastic. Furthermore, on the eve of his trip to Bonn, President Geisel emphasized in his message to congress the significance of maintaining a good Brazilian-U.S. understand[illegible], which cannot be shaken by contingent pressures.

Just as we do not want the atom in order to make the bomb, we do not want it to destroy political and ideological alliances we have developed throughout our history or to endanger the successful Brazilian economic model. Let us prepare for the peaceful use of nuclear energy by continuing to adopt the peaceful way of diplomatic negotiations and responsible decisions.

BRITISH PETROLEUM STRIKES OIL ON SANTOS SHELF

PY0813402 Paris AFP in Spanish 0333 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 7 Mar--PETROBRAS announced here today that oil has been found in the Santos continental shelf off the Sao Paulo state coast. The state oil company official communique said that oil gushed out from a depth of 4,850 meters at a drilling site of the British Petroleum Company, which has been operating under a risk contract on the Sao Paulo continental shelf since last December. The communique added that nothing can be said as to its commercial value since it has not yet been evaluated.

THREE MORE VICTIMS OF DEATH SQUAD ALLEGED

PY0717582 Paris AFP in Spanish 1631 GMT 7 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 7 Mar--It was reported here today that the bullet-ridden bodies of three victims of the death squad were found in the last 24 hours in Rio de Janeiro suburbs. According to the local press, the three new victims bring to 77 the number of persons killed by the death squad during 1978. According to the press, which on several occasions has charged that the death squad is an organization composed of police officers, all victims bore signs of torture which had been inflicted by the executioners before they were killed.

BRIEFS

RISK CONTRACTS WITH EXXON--The Brazilian Petroleum Corporation [PETROBRAS] today signed four risk contracts with Esso Empreendimentos Petroliferos, a subsidiary of the Exxor Corporation. Minister Shigeaki Ueki, who attended the signing ceremony, reported that these contracts involve $55 million and that the areas to be prospected encompass 12,000 square km distributed as follows: three areas of 3,075 square km each located in the Amazon Basin and one area of 2,800 square km located in the Santos Basin. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Feb 78 PY]

FRG LOAN--Frankfurt, FRG, 24 Feb--An agreement was signed here today for a DM200 million (nearly $100 million) loan to the Brazilian Development Bank. According to the Commerzbank, the term of the loan is 8 years at 6.75 percent interest. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0018 GMT 24 Feb 78 PY]

FURTHER MATERIALS ON LETELIER CASE

Special Judge Appointed

PY071547Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1532 GMT 7 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 7 Mar--The Chilean Supreme Court appointed today a special judge to investigate the involvement of two Chileans in the assassination of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier. During a plenum meeting, the Supreme Court agreed to appoint the special judge requested by the military government to investigate the details of the official passports which were reportedly used by the persons involved in Letelier's murder. Judge Marcos Libedinsky was appointed special judge to the case by the Supreme Court.

Judge To Start Questioning

PY081329Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile--Special Judge Marcos Libedinsky has started the investigation of any possible irregularities in the issuance of official passports to two allegedly Chilean citizens.

Parallel to the investigation carried out by Judge Libedinsky, First Criminal Court Judge (Juana Gonzalez) will be in charge of identifying, finding and questioning those persons mentioned in the request submitted by the District of Colombia court.

The president of the Supreme Court instructed the two judges to carry out with great secrecy and speed the summaries that are required.

The first investigations carried out by Judge Libedinsky reveal that the Foreign Ministry has on record the two numbers belonging to the official passports which were allegedly issued to the two persons involved. The names on these passports, however, are not those of Juan Williams Rose and Alejandro Romeral Jara.

Decree No 332 issued 25 July 1975 establishes regulations for the issuance of official, diplomatic and special passports. According to this decree, official passports are issued to honorary Chilean officials in the foreign service and members of the Foreign Ministry and dependent services; to the comptroller general; and to high-ranking members of the armed forces and carabineros on active duty. Other persons who are eligible for this privilege are high-ranking religious leaders, university rectors, and national representatives [delegados no plenipotenciarios] who attend international congresses and conferences. Official passports are also issued to civilian officials and teachers of the armed forces and carabineros who, through government decrees, are appointed to missions abroad.

Investigator Goes to U.S.

PY071738Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1655 GMT 7 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 7 Mar--It was reported here that Cmdr Enrique Montero, the Chilean deputy interior minister, left today for the United States to gather information on the assassination of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier.

Politics Seen in Petition

Santiago EL CRONISTA in Spanish 24 Feb 78 p 7 WA

[Editorial: "Suggestive Inquiries in the Letelier Case"]

[Text] The assassination of former minister and Marxist agent Orlando Letelier in Washington in September 1976 has often been used as a pretext to concoct the most sinister and wild stories designed to damage the prestige and image of our country. The very day of the assassination, when no more than fragmentary details of the incident were known and the whole matter was still confused and puzzling, a North American senator who is known for his Marxist line carelessly propounded the theory that the crime had been the work of the Chilean Government.

The rapid and spontaneous reaction of the government in Santiago, and the embassy in Washington, flatly denying such reports, condemning the assassination and offering the fullest possible cooperation to uncover the truth, demonstrated to world opinion that there was no reason to search for the suspects in our country. And that is where the matter has remained while the police investigations, which curiously have moved at an exasperatingly slow pace, established that Letelier was a paid Cuban spy, with connections in the world of espionage. And suspicions have arisen that Letelier was an informer and a double agent.

Now a new episode has been created, invoked to reactivate the campaign against Chile. It consists of the U.S. Government's petition to have Chile open a judicial investigation of "two military officers" presumably involved. The news has been given wide international dissemination, especially since it coincides with the date of the start of the UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva on the Chilean situation.

The details of the news emanating from Washington are curious. It is also reported that a federal prosecutor would come to participate in the interrogation of Juan Williams Rose and Alejandro Romeral Jara, the names of the "military men" involved.

As soon as the facts became known, an exhaustive and broad investigation was launched in our country, directed by the armed forces themselves. Meanwhile, newsmen concentrated on investigating the facts on their own. The result: It was proved without a doubt that no one by the names mentioned exists or existed in any of the national defense agencies. Also, the data concerning the addresses and residences of the suspects supplied by the United States proved to be false. Moreover, the Office of the Civil Registry confirmed that the surname Romeral does not even exist in Chile.

What is behind this whole international publicity splash regarding such a vague and contradictory report?

The FBI's slow investigation, contradicting the romantic portrayals of the bureau's efficiency, which the television offers us so generously, would seem to be designed more to promote certain political reactions than to discover the real identity and nationality of Letelier's assassins.

BRIEFS

AIRLINE SERVICE TO PARAGUAY--Copper Airline Company [LADECO] has been authorized to establish regular passenger, cargo and mail transportation service between Santiago, Chile, and Asuncion, Paraguay. The flights will be subjected to fixed schedules and routes while fares will be established in Santiago. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 23 Feb 78 PY]

SOCIOLOGIST MAY ENTER PRESIDENTIAL RACE

PA071955Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1852 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[Ricardo Esteban report]

[Excerpt] Bogota, 7 Mar (EFE)--A new name was added today to the long list of candidates for the Colombian presidency, but experts continue to favor the traditional Liberals and Conservatives.

Jose Gutierrez, a sociologist and former member of the Liberal Revolutionary Movement (MRL) founded by President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, said he would struggle to reform the nation's institutions. Gutierrez announced that he will wait for the reactions of leftists, intellectuals and other groups in the country before deciding whether he will run in the 4 June elections or withdraw before that.

With the inclusion of Gutierrez, there are now seven candidates trying to win the support of an apathetic electorate.

VALLE DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS CLASSES IN CALI

PA072016Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Cali, Colombia--The Valle Department Government this morning decided to suspend classes indefinitely in all private and public schools in Cali. This morning, the bus and station wagon owners suspended transportation services, seriously affecting attendance at classes in this capital.

Governor Carlos Holguin Sardi and Education Secretary Maria del Socorro Bustamante de Lengua announced at noon today that in view of the transportation sector's plan for another idle day tomorrow, it was decided to suspend classes.

ACTIVITIES OF FARC GUERRILLAS REPORTED

Peasant Informers Killed

PA062000Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Bucaramanga--Some 11 peasants have been killed thus far this year by guerrillas of the Fourth Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] in the Cimitarra region. Oscar Vanegas and Andres Cogoloos, who were accused by the guerrillas of being army informers, were shot to death this morning, according to an RCN newsman. The bodies of the two peasants were left in Cimitarra together with a large quantity of propaganda material belonging to the FARC.

Communities Raided

PA072011Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Villavicencio, Colombia--Some 150 FARC guerrillas at dawn today occupied the Vista Hermosa community, which is located south of El Meta, looted the stores, attacked the police outpost and stole 2 million pesos from the agrarian bank after killing one policeman and seriously wounding two others.

The bloody attack took place at 0200, when the population was still asleep. The guerrillas, carrying automatic weapons and apparently led by a young woman, attacked the police outpost and disarmed the five policemen, taking the radio equipment. During the action, one of the policemen who tried to repel the attack was killed, while two others and a civilian were seriously wounded.

The rebels then looted stores and several public agencies, including the agrarian fund from which they took 2 million pesos. After shouting revolutionary slogans, the 150 guerrillas fled to the mountains, taking with them a policemen as hostage and a large amount of groceries, medicines, four carbines and a submachinegun, as well as the 2 million pesos from the agrarian bank.

The wounded officers and the civilian were brought to the local hospital in a light plane, according to reports from Arnaldo Fallas, RON director at El Meta. Airborne troops from the 6th brigade are chasing the rebels, who headed toward the San Juan de Arama region.

Later reports revealed a second FARC guerrilla attack this morning in the Puerto Rico community. More than 15 heavily armed rebels killed police agent Jaime Barreto Barriga and later fled into the mountains. This new attack took place after 150 FARC guerrilla members occupied the Vista Hermosa community, according to RCN correspondent Arnaldo Fallas.

TRUCK MANUFACTURING AGREEMENT WITH PERU SIGNED

PA072144Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1554 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 7 Mar (AFP)--A few hours ago, Colombia and Peru signed a complementary industrial agreement for the manufacture of small trucks, the Foreign Trade Institute [INCOMEX] announced. The agreement signed in this capital had been approved last month during discussions at the 20th conference of the Cartagena accord in Lima.

According to INCOMEX, Colombia will manufacture small trucks of up to 6 tons, and Peru will build B-4 type trucks of up to 17 tons for transporting heavy cargo. INCOMEX reported that significant progress was achieved during the Lima conference in matters related to the automotive program of the Andean group.

BRIEFS

EXPORT REVENUE--Bogota--Colombian export revenue totaled $347 million as of 16 February. This represents an 11.9 percent increase over total export revenue at this time last year. Imports totaled $299.1 million. This means that the balance of trade is at about the same level as in 1977, the Colombian Foreign Trade Institute reported today. [Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA]

URANIUM EXPLOITATION--Bogota, 2 Mar (AFP)--It has been officially announced that the Colombian National Institute for Nuclear Affairs and the Spanish firm Enusa signed an agreement today for the exploitation of uranium deposits in the jungle region around Vaupes and Guainia in eastern Colombia. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1446 GMT 2 Mar 78 PA]

CID PROPOSES CANDIDATES TO RUN WITH DURAN BALLEN

PA071647Y Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 1 Mar 78 p 15 PA

[Text] Leon Febres Cordero R., Luis Chiriboga Parra and Heinz Moeller F. are the three candidates proposed by Democrat Institutionalist Coalition [CID] to complete Sixto Duran Ballen's electoral ticket.

The resolution was adopted by the CID National Directorate, which together with eight other parties make up the Constitutionalist Front supporting Duran Ballen's presidential candidacy.

Gilberto Contreras Navas, CID national chief, presided over the meeting.

In addition, the CID National Directorate decided not to accept the resignation from the party submitted by four top leaders, among them former President Otto Arosemena Gomez. It has been learned that efforts are being made to have them withdraw their resignations.

The CID National Directorate is composed of, among others: Gilberto Contreras Navas, Clotario Baca, Abner Herdoiza, Oswaldo Gonzalez Cabrera, Alberto Lituma, Julio Prado Vallejo, Franklin Moreno Quezada, Victor Hugo del Salto, Dora Bastidas and Gen Nilo Villagomez.

VELASQUISTS UNDECIDED ON PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA031949Y Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 26 Feb 78 p 3 PA

[Text] The Velasquists have not yet come out in support of any presidential candidate. Only the National Assembly will be able to reach a decision in this regard, Dr Juan Carlos Faidutti has said.

"There is only one leadership, which was legally elected by the national convention and which is supported by our mentor and leader, Dr Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra," Faidutti said.

Faidutti said that he has begun to visit the provinces in order to reorganize their leadership. Yesterday, I visited Manabi and I will visit other provinces later, he said.

Referring to the unity of Velasquists, he said: "There is only one Velasquist party and it continues to demonstrate its firm unity and activism in full agreement with the National Directorate which I head.

"The Political Council has been established and is made up of the following persons: Galo Martinez Merchan, the lawyer Nebot Velasco, Dr Benjamin Escudero Maquilon, Dr Rodolfo Veintimilla Flores, Pedro Vicente Maldonado, Emilio Bowen Roggiero, Mrs Judith de Teran Varea, Engineer Jose Pons Vizcaino, Dr Juan Velasco Espinoza, Dr Jose Flores Abad and Dr Nelson Checa. This council will meet on Tuesday with the National Directorate to outline the policy to be followed and to discuss the various problems which have resulted from the promulgation of the law of elections and parties.

"In addition, at this meeting a date will be chosen for the next conventions to be held early in March to define the party strategy for the coming elections."

Faidutti said: "We have no candidates so far, and we have received no proposals from any political party to have any of our members form part of the slates of presidential candidates. We Velasquists are perfectly aware that only the National Assembly could make a decision in this respect and I ask that no more speculation in this regard be circulated, since it serves only to misguide the Velasquist rank and file, which today is more solidly united than ever around the figure of Dr Velasco Ibarra and the directorate which I head," Faidutti concluded.

ULTIMA HORA CRITICIZES CARTER'S RIGHTS POLICY

PY0801185Y Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 7 Mar 78 p 9 PY

[Editorial: "The Ugly Discrimination"]

[Text] The severely discriminatory attitude of the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] in restricting the possibility of Paraguay's obtaining indispensable credits to complete important work on the trans-Chaco highway, is, as stated before, the result of pressure from the U.S. Government, supposedly in response to the idea of enforcing the observance of human rights in several countries which are experiencing political irregularities. We should probably not question the idealistic position taken by the United States on this issue. We must, however, indicate and criticize an attitude which clearly shows political pressure based on obvious discrimination. It is no news that the Carter administration is adopting an uneven attitude regarding human rights taking an unfair position which depends on the strategic value of the countries or areas toward which this political attitude is directed.

A few days ago, a Washington POST editorial on the subject criticized the way this policy of the Carter government is oriented, specifically indicating "the mixture of idealism and arrogance" of its approach to the observance of human rights. The editorial stated that Carter "is showing that countries which are considered important because of strategic, political or economic reasons--such as Iran, South Korea, the Philippines and several black African states--can be greatly criticized but not officially punished over faults regarding human rights." It adds that "more and more President Carter has to face, both domestically and abroad, questions on how effective his human rights policy is, on one hand, and on the open interference which this policy means, on the other."

This is a wise and respectable appreciation from a newspaper which should be well aware of the mistakes of this policy of the present U.S. administration which, because of its discrimination, can do nothing but harm diplomatic relations in our hemisphere. It is clear that this attitude is ambiguous and faulty. Because of this, the intended objective will never be achieved. Furthermore, as the newspaper stated, in deciding that "this rigid review will be used by international banks and now, in a particularly inept and prejudicial action, by the IMF [International Monetary Fund]." The administration is making use of bad arbitrators to impose rules which are basically absurd.

We wish to believe that, rather than a lack of prudence, this position shows a lack of knowledge and understanding of our political and economic problems. An international policy on human rights, even from the largest power in the world, is not appropriate or pertinent when it is mechanized or restricted by a unilateral strategy. This seems to be the intended keynote, together with political-economic pressure. The results are irritating and counterproductive.

SUBVERSIVE NOT YET ARRESTED

PY0218255Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Mar 78 p 27 PY

[Excerpt] During a talk with an ABC reporter yesterday, inspector Alberto Cantero, chief of the police political department, categorically denied rumors that Nidia Antonia Gonzalez Talavera de la Costa, on whom there is an award for her arrest for subversive activities, had been detained.

He said: "It was a surprise for us" to read in the papers that Nidia Antonia Gonzalez Talavera de da Costa had been arrested by our department, because we did not know anything about it. The rumor probably started with the arrest of other persons who had contacts with the wanted woman, but we have not yet arrested Nidia Antonia Gonzalez Talavera de da Costa who continues to be sought by the police.

The chief reported that four persons had been sent to Emboscada prison on charges of hiding the wanted woman. The arrested persons are: psychiatrist Carlos Arestivo Bellassai, Segundo Llerandi, Pascual Ruben Urbieta Valdovinos and Maria Teresa Ortega Urbieta. "We arrested these persons," he said, "because they were accused of hiding the subversive woman. Once this accusation was confirmed, we sent them to Emboscada for disposal by ordinary justice. According to reports, the subversive woman intermittently hid in the houses of those four persons to avoid capture."

Inspector Cantero also said that "the Urbietas own a farm in Chaco-I, across the river from Asuncion, to where Nidia Antonia Gonzalez Talavera was taken, hidden for several days and then moved. A farmhand found the woman and informed officials. Carlos Alberto Arestivo, Segundo Llerandi, and the Urbietas were questioned in this department and later sent to Emboscada, once their connections with the subversive woman were confirmed.

"I want to point out," said Cantero, "that we will severely punish those who shelter Nidia Antonia Gonzalez Talavera de da Costa, as well as any subversive element. We want the citizenry to give full cooperation in the arrest of this woman."

ELEVEN CHARGED WITH SUBVERSION RELEASED

PY021615Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Mar 78 p 27 PY

[Text] Eleven persons imprisoned in Emboscada prison on charges of subversive activities were released yesterday, police sources revealed.

The persons released are: Daniel Campos Ruiz, Melquiades Alonso Massare, Nicolas Spiridono Barressi, Zacarias and Feliciano Alverez, Rosalino Velazco, Esther Cardan Rodriguez, Juan Mariano Ribac, Juliana Saldivar Cardozo, Rene Ayala Gonzalez and Corcino Coronel.

According to the sources, some of these persons had been arrested in 1974 and others arrested in 1976 and 1977. Most of their cases had been submitted to court. They had been jailed by decision of judge Arnaldo Alverez.

LEFTIST POLITICAL LEADER DISCUSSES ELECTIONS, CONSTITUTION

PA072250Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 Feb 78 p 4 PA

[Interview with Dr Genaro Ledesma Izquierta, leader of the Popular, Student, Peasant and Worker Front--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Is your party as philosophically profound as it is large? What are its chances in the elections for a new Constitutient Assembly?

[Answer] It is as profound as the people from whom it arises and as large as the horizon toward which it projects itself. It will make a good showing in the Constituent Assembly elections and in the 1980 elections.

[Question] One critic has said that today's Peru is a poor prize which 13 parties are getting ready to fight over as scavengers would. What do you have to say about this?

[Answer] Such a statement only illustrates the meaning of freedom of expression. That statement is a poor joke which, unfortunately, does have a bit of truth in it. The parties of the right and center, acting as free political bodies, are the scavengers preparing to devour the country.

[Question] And the leftist? Are they the doves of peace?

[Answer] I will answer you by saying that they are the people's only safeguard. The weight that the left will have depends on its capacity to close ranks at moments such as this. Upon this weight depends, if not the disbanding of the scavengers, at least the ability to control them.

[Question] What reforms or changes does the Popular, Student, Peasant and Worker Front [FOCEP] propose for the new Constituent Assembly?

[Answer] One of our first proposals calls for a hands-off policy concerning the labor code so that it will not be eliminated for political reasons, as is happening now. The new Constituent Assembly must guarantee employment stability, among other things.

[Question] What else?

[Answer] Regarding the Agrarian reform, an irreversible achievement of the armed forces government, we think that the land was given to the peasants under a mandatory payment operation in which they were given 20 years to pay for it. We are calling for the abolition of that debt, which represents many billions of soles and an equal number of worries, especially since the collection of payments from the farmers is coercive, blind and merciless, as all bank collections are.

[Question] Is there any other FOCEP idea to be presented at the Constituent Assembly?

[Answer] Yes! There is something that I think is very important and that deals with the replacement of Articles 1, 2 and 3 in the present constitution by others whose text would be:

Article 1: Peru is a democratic republic whose historic, ethnic and cultural roots are a Spanish and Indian mixture. It is organized on a foundation of work with the objective of social ownership over the means of production and life in a developed, free and classless socialist society.

In line with this principle, its official languages are Spanish and Quechua. Its symbols are the seven-color flag of Tahuantinsuyo and the red and white flag, the present national emblem and the national anthem with different words. The power of the state stems from the people and will be exercised through rulers and officials who have limitations and responsibilities established by the constitution and the law. The right of the people to accuse before judicial power those rulers and officials who commit the crimes of abuse of authority, embezzlement and fraud or other crimes punishable by law is a sacred right.

Article 2: The state is one and indivisible. Its sovereignty is absolute. As a result of this, it rejects imperialism, whatever its form of penetration. It also rejects colonialism and neocolonialism.

Article 3: The territory of the state is inviolable, and it covers a land area of 1,331,410 square kilometers, a sea area extending 200 miles including the continental shelf and the sea bed, and an air space to the extent of the atmosphere.

[Question] In your opinion, what are the achievements of the government of the armed forces? Do you think they are irreversible?

[Answer] There is the agrarian reform, which has put an end to large land ownership and to revenues without work from land ownership and aroused class awareness among the peasants. We must also mention control by the state of basic industries such as cement and paper. These are irreversible achievements. However, we must all struggle every day so that these achievements may remain irreversible.

[Question] What element, group or political inspiration do you think represents the greatest danger to Peru?

[Answer] The rightist groups, because they have always disregarded the sacred interests of the fatherland and have preferred their own egotistic interests and because of their submissive connections with foreign capital.

[Question] To what do you attribute the unending division and fractioning of the left, which, like the sections of a worm, can live without a head?

[Answer] This is a generalized situation. It became more intense as a result of the division in the socialist camp between the Soviet Union and China and of the subsequent appearance of Eurocommunism. Although there continues to be only one socialist doctrine, these divisions have resulted in fractioning that penetrates all the parties and results in a weakening of leftist forces. Despite this, there are signs of hope that the much sought-after unity will finally be achieved.

[Question] Do you want to give us the names of persons who could be president?

[Answer] No!

[Question] Why not? Are you being coy?

[Answer] Not at all. It is simply that so far there are no grounds for making a political forecast of that nature.

[Question] How do you think Peru will be divided for the 1980 elections?

[Answer] Into left and right, with some vacillating center parties flirting with both sides. Because of their affinity, I think that Popular Action and the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance will merge. [as published]

CARTER MAY MEET WITH TORRIJOS DURING CARACAS VISIT

PA080137Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0122 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 7 Mar (EFE)--U.S. President Jimmy Carter might meet in Caracas with Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos during his visit here on 28 March, it was learned today. Venezuelan Foreign Ministry sources said that for that reason and for the purpose of expanded meetings with Venezuelan petroleum officials, Carter is currently studying the possibility of extending his stay in Venezuela, which had initially been scheduled to last 24 hours.

According to the report, Carter could thus personally brief Torrijos on the steps being taken in Washington regarding the Panama Canal treaties and the efforts being made in the U.S. Senate for their approval.

Jimmy Carter will be a guest at the presidential residence La Casona, where he will hold his first meetings with Venezuelan petroleum officials and with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. In Venezuela, a democratic country and one with increasing influence on regional and international affairs, Carter will undoubtedly discuss the human rights situation in the hemisphere.

Nevertheless, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Carter's official agenda in Caracas will not be released until next week, when Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will arrive to coordinate the visit with Venezuelan authorities. A U.S. mission composed of protocol and security officials has already arrived here.

EL NACIONAL VIEWS POSITIVE RESULTS OF LEFTIST ROUNDTABLES

PA071805Y Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 2 Mar 78 p A-5 PA

[Article by Victor Vidal: "State of the Left"]

[Text] Are the leftist roundtables over? Is the conversation stage over? What is happening now probably has to do with reality and the shattering of some illusions.

The Movement for Socialism's [MAS] initiative of inviting leftist parties to talks on unity created a certain optimism regarding the possibility of agreement on a presidential candidate. This was not precisely the topic proposed by the MAS secretary general. Other questions had to be discussed first, and other aspects of unity had to be explored.

These explorations had positive results, at other levels which cannot be disregarded just because an immediate agreement on a presidential candidate was not reached. There has been a notable improvement in the climate of leftist relations, and there have been some sectional agreements which have already begun to bear fruit. These advances must be noted.

Even in the matter of the presidential candidacy, all is not lost. During the roundtable, four important proposals were considered. The People's Electoral Movement [MEP] proposed a withdrawal of its candidates in order to seek a common formula. The Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] proposed a search for a candidate other than those already presented but without withdrawing the latter. Miguel Otero Silva proposed a joint electoral command presided over by Prieto, a single card, a single ticket and Rangel's candidacy. MAS proposed a national consultation to select a candidate from among those already nominated or new nominees.

These proposal are evidence that there was an attempt to reach an agreement and that if it was not reached, or has not been reached so far, it does not mean that the doors are closed, since the proposals were launched at a level which did not previously exist and which can be used to air the various proposals of the leftist parties.

The electoral campaign has demands for unity which have nothing to do with the presidential candidacy, the factor which divides and cannot be overcome at present. On one hand there is the possibility of joint tickets in various parts of the country. This is feasible. There is even, considering that the council elections won't be held until after December, a great deal of room for understanding in this important matter.

There are also agreements on labor union and student elections, which must be held during the year simultaneously with the national electoral process, and on the common struggles which may emerge regarding specific problems affecting Venezuelans.

Regarding discouraging criticism which tries to make the leftist dialog appear a failure, we must keep in mind that for a left which has for many years been subject to internal dissension, the steps taken reveal that ample possiblities exist for dialog and convergence.

FEDECAMARAS MEETING DISCUSSES ECONOMIC TOPICS

PA071558Y Caracas Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1228 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Caracas, 6 Mar (VENPRESS)--The monthly meeting of the National Council of the Association of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FEDECAMARAS) dealt with the various economic topics which were discussed yesterday by the tripartite commission of the labor, business [and government] sectors and the suggestions made by FEDECAMARAS.

FEDECAMARAS President Carlos Vogeler Rincones explained to the council the points discussed by the tripartite commission in a meeting yesterday with President Carlos Andres Perez on the status of the national oil industry--which is remedying the situation of low production--as well as the decline of the value of dollar on world markets.

Vogeler Rincones also explained the recent guidelines regarding the use of foreign capital for social interest construction projects.

At the FEDECAMARAS council meeting it was also reported that a high-level commission of economists would be created to help direct FEDECAMARAS analyses into the proper channels and to serve as advisers to the executive directorate in the determination of policies.

THREE ARRESTED FOR COMPLICITY WITH GUERRILLAS

PA071539Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Cattleman Ramon (Ybanson) has not been kidnaped. but is under arrest, according to an Interior Ministry communique. The communique states that the cattleman is charged with complicity with guerrilla groups in the eastern region of the country.

The communique states that charges against the cattleman are presently being filed. It adds that Juan Perez Larosa and Pedro Rafael Silva are also under arrest on the same charges. The Interior Ministry communique states that the three have been brought before the military courts of El Tigre.

MEXICO PROTESTS FARM PRODUCE INCIDENTS

PA071703Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1606 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 7 Mar (AFP)--Foreign Minister Santiago Roel has said here that relations between Mexico and the United States could be "damaged" by incidents such as the blockade against Mexican produce. The minister was referring to actions taken by U.S. farmers on the eastern side of the border to prevent fruit and vegetables exported by Mexico from entering the United States.

"We would not like unnecessary problems to be created that divide the two nations, but we refuse to be offended," Roel told the press last night. Although he indicated that the problem was closed, Roel said that he had instucted the Mexican Embassy in Washington to present a formal note of protest over the incidents. Roel added that the note will also demand that the corresponding authorities be ordered to guarantee the passage of the products purchased by U.S. companies in Mexico.

Formal Protest Lodged

PA080426Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Through its embassy in Washington the Mexican Government has filed a protest with the U.S. State Department for the recent attempt to block 135 trucks carrying perishable products. Antonio Mejares, our consul in McAllen, has also been instructed to ask the pertinent authorities for respect and free transit for those products which had been previously purchased by U.S. firms and which had met all health and legal requirements. Therefore, as the situation returns to normal, a warning has been issued that if there are any further incidents that harm Mexican interests, an immediate claim will be filed for damages.

CUBAN OFFICIAL DISCOUNTS INTERFERENCE IN NICARAGUA

PA071455Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0447 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Mar (AFP)--Cuban Labor Vice Minister Francisco Penalver said upon his arrival here that even though Cuba supports the Nicaraguan people's struggle "it will never interfere in Nicaragua's internal affairs." Penalver, who is a guest of the Mexican Government, is scheduled to meet with top Mexican officials to draw up social security exchange agreements, an unofficial source disclosed.

NICARAGUAN POET ASKS MEXICO TO BREAK WITH SOMOZA

FL032233Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2132 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 3 Mar (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Today at a press conference, Nicaraguan poet Ernesto Cardenal called for, "in the name of the Nicaraguan people who are dying and battling," the breaking of diplomatic relations between Mexico and Nicaragua. He also asked that President Lopez-Portillo's government prevent the entry of Nicaraguan airplanes belonging to Anastasio Somoza. Cardenal stated that if Mexico takes this step, its example could induce other countries to take the same measures.

BETHANCOURT INAUGURATES FIRST BROAD FRONT CONGRESS

PA031200Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1626 GMT 2 Mar 78 PA

[Speech by Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, adviser to Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos, inaugurating the first congress of the Broad Front of Professionals at the Justo Arosemena Palace in Panama City on 2 March 1978--live]

[Excerpts] Distinguished ladies and gentlemen: Upon inaugurating this first congress of the Broad Front of Professionals, I do so in General Torrijos' name. He originally intended to attend this event, an event which has his warmest support. However, he subsequently decided not to attend for reasons we will state later.

The Broad Front of Professionals is an extremely valuable organization in our country. It genuinely seeks to create an authentic national unity which goes beyond the limits of sectarianism, pettiness and selfishness. It permits the Panamanian people and their professional sectors to work jointly for the development of our country, going above and beyond sectarian and political lines.

In the past, appeals for national unity were made for an exclusively electoral purpose. Calls for national unity were made but for a specific election and for specific candidacies. In fact, the calls were not for a true national unity because they limited the objectives which should be sought in authentic unity.

Why are we referring primarily to this concept of national unity? Because, contrary to the concept to which you subscribe and according to which the revolutionary government is acting, there are other groups which are also making an appeal for national unity. But theirs is not an appeal only to close ranks against the present revolutionary government. What is worse and more serious is that it is an appeal for an alleged national unity against the fatherland, against the interests of our republic, against the true interests of the Panamanian people.

That is why when that famous Miami meeting was being organized--exclusively and fundamentally for the purpose of staging a spectacle or show in the United States itself at a time when the treaties were being debated, in order to discredit our country, our government and especially our chief of government--and we saw that David Samudio, one of the persons who was to attend that meeting, proceeded to honestly point out why he as chief of the Liberal Party refused to attend, saying that no Panamanian could oppose the patriotic position expressed by the nation in the plebiscite which endorsed the treaty, we--as the personal political adviser of the chief of government--answered Samudio in a public letter which emphasized the scope and purpose of the enormous step he had taken as a contribution to the true concept of national unity we are advocating.

Naturally, this immediately gave some persons the idea that it involved a possible resurrection of political parties, that there had been a settlement between the revolutionary government and the Liberal Party. Why did some people think so? Because, unfortunately, we still have not accustomed ourselves to seeing the actions of the men of persons or political leaders in their true dimension and because we always have the tendency of placing their actions within the scope of compromise [illegible]

We have explained to all who asked us and we repeat it here that sincerely, independently of the formulas which may be used in the future to analyze our political problems and the future of political parties, the contribution of Samudio at this time was to prevent an image of unity between two traditional parties--the Liberal and Panamenist--from being presented in the United States and which was aimed exclusively at showing the North Americans that the two largest traditional parties were joining against the Panamanian Government and against the approval of the treaties. There was no ulterior motive behind Samudio or the revolutionary government's answer to his letter. It was the action of a person who at a given time, realizing the seriousness of his presence at such a meeting, proceeded spontaneously and following his party's directorate to reject that trip. On the other hand, it was the position of a revolutionary government which at all times has stated that this country and this government is not a private reservation for the benefit of certain persons or certain political tendencies but for all Panamanians--professionals, workers, peasants--whose only and basic intention is to serve their fatherland, to liberate it and to face the real and concrete problems experienced by our country in order to contribute to the solution of the problems. It is within this dimension, esteemed friends, that our present political activity is being carried out.

In the present political path, in the forthcoming elections--which will be held according to what our constitution states and as our electoral laws establish--what will truly represent the will of our political, social and economic geography will be the renovation of a new Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives elected on the basis of popular votes freely and honestly cast.

It is for this reason that the revolutionary government has flatly rejected the attempts of those who, not being able to invade, attack or destroy the government face to face or in an open and frank struggle, have now invented the legal thesis of [word indistinct] of a consitutent assembly for the purpose of bringing down the present consitution and, within this constitution, those articles that have opened a new path for our country, in this way satisfying their ambitions of representation in a constituent assembly molded in the style of those that existed before 1968.

None of those elements really wants to struggle in the community where they live. They do want to appear on television and to make speeches. What they do not understand is that in these elections the people who are candidates and who will struggle for their candidacies are persons who must live in the community they represent and would have to have prestige and support within their communities. They avoid this because this is not the type of election to which they were accustomed to before 1968.

It is for this reason you can constantly hear talk about a constitutent assembly and elections postponements, about giving political validity to the traditional parties, about not giving any legal disposition to those parties and so forth.

We think that the present constitution and the electoral laws clearly establish what the revolution has pointed out as a power structure in our country. In that power structure all Panamanians without exception have participation. Within that power structure the representatives of the Panamanian people at the corregimentos assembly will be those persons who have been elected by the communities through their votes.

The corregimiento assembly has also been accused of not having any legislative functions since the legislative functions have been given to the National Legislative Council. Those of us who are attorneys know very well that this argument is completely false, not only from a legal point of view but also from a historical point of view.

This attack on the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, in addition to being designed to impress, also has the objective of destroying the organization representing the true popular power of our country, because those who are elected as representatives in fact represent their communities. Through that organization, we are seeking a more harmonious development of our republic in the sense that in the past those provinces that had a great number of deputies were the provinces which necessarily were taken into account in the distribution of the largest part of the budget, all of which resulted in the disproportionate development of the capital city and some of the larger provincial capitals. This was detrimental to the rest of the country, since that sector of the nation was not taken into consideration because it practically had no deputies. Because of this fact, they were not given much consideration.

The social, political and economic consequence of this policy, sustained practically since the beginning of our independence until 1968, was the large exodus of our rural population to the larger cities in search of better living conditions for themselves and their families. Now, under the system of the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, we have achieved each year, within the national budget and analyzing the demands, requirements and requests from the various communities in the country, a more just and equitable distribution of the economic capabilities of the nation to develop it as a whole and not with a huge head and a feeble body.

Those who claim that the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives has done nothing during these 6 years are persons who generally do not leave the city of Panama and who believe that the city of Panama is the Republic of Panama, and who have not visited our countryside and our communities to see the aqueducts installed, the medical centers built, the electrical development and the new highways. All this was done with the cooperation of many of those representatives who are being constantly criticized, not as a personal offense, but to discredit the organization of popular power which is the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives as a preliminary step toward the destruction of the revolutionary process by trying to harm its fundamental institutions.

The Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives is not the only target of this escalation of criticism. The 1972 constitution is also being attacked, in view of the changes it made regarding fundamental concepts of what the Panamanian state is and what its organizations are. The 1972 constitution discards that philosophy of previous constitutions of having three state branches working separately in harmonious cooperation and the idea of the National Guard having the exclusive objective of protecting the lives, reputations and property of the citizens. However, these concepts were really not adhered to in the past because all governments of our country generally depended on the political support of what was formally the National Police. When these governments no longer had that support, they collapsed. Thus, these previous constitutions maintained a traditional fiction inherited from European and North American political philosophies.

However, the 1972 constitution, just as it did with the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives as to its ability to legislate, described the National Guard as it really is, an organization not only dedicated to safeguarding the property and reputation of citizens, but also an organization which participates in the leadership of the Panamanian state.

This is one of the articles of the constitution which the enemies of the revolutionary process are trying to destroy. They are trying to destroy it because they know that during these 10 years all the conspiracies and plots hatched against the revolutionary government and against Gen Omar Torrijos have been thwarted by that National Guard, a National Guard which is united, a National Guard which for 10 years has lived under a revolutionary process and under revolutionary teachings and under the direction and leadership of Gen Omar Torrijos. They know that in the future these conspiracies and plots will continue to fail. Consequently, they seek to constitutionally limit the powers of the National Guard with the purpose of having it again become the instrument of coat-and-tie politicians, of civilians who ordered the National Guard to go out and shoot you. Naturally, the people got angry with the uniformed man who was the one who got the dirty job. The people did not get mad at the one who called from his office and ordered that the students be beaten up. This was because the civilian wore a coat and tie.

We do not go along with that because during all those years we participated in the country's political activity on various occasions, we had the opportunity of seeing many of those civilians and democrats call the National Guard to go and beat up and persecute students, labor leaders, communists, socialists and leftists.

Therefore, now when they are beating their chests saying that human rights are not respected in our country, we who have experienced politics in our country sincerely believe that the period when human rights are most respected in our country is now. Before this, human rights were not respected in this country. The constitution remained in effect, the laws remained in effect, but above that constitution and those laws--and here today we must have present those professional and labor leaders who were victims of this--persecution, abuses, exile and torture with the constitution and laws at hand were carried out.

These are realities, distinguished professional colleagues, which we must analyze and speak about truthfully to our people. The time of lies and the time of philosophical juggling and sophism have been abandoned in our country. We are now obliging all sectors and all persons to face the harsh reality of the political, economic, social and cultural development of our country.

Whoever wants to have political rights in this country must earn it through real and effective action on behalf of the development of our nation, people and communities. But he cannot start by theorizing, sitting comfortably in an office, he must go out and work. This is a problem we have created for those who made politics a way of life and not a way of working for the benefit of the country.

I told you that General Torrijos would be at this meeting. I can assure you that General Torrijos has great sympathy for the Broad Front of Professionals. You will recall that he attended one of the Broad Front's meetings and on that occasion he was accompanied by some of President Carter's assistants who were in our country at that time. I talked this morning to General Torrijos and he told me several things. I will be honest, I forgot to ask him to come, but that is besides the point. I wish to let you know, let us speak up frankly, that General Torrijos did not come today not because he does not care to attend a Broad Front's meeting or to talk to you, but because he feels that during the past 10 years, and we are all aware of it, he has been leading the country not just on the domestic but also on the international front.

This man, whose life has been constantly in danger, although we know nothing about it because generally these things are not published, has currently been the target of attacks in the U.S. Senate. He understands that this is inevitable and he expects it. In reality, these attacks on him and his family are aimed at destabilizing the revolutionary government, to provoke the anger of our chief of government and of those sectors which are supporting him, in order to turn the discussion and the problem they have in the Senate, that is, the canal treaties, into a problem of minor importance and to give the problem of drugs more importance so that attention can be diverted away from the main issue.

The attacks against General Torrijos and his family regarding the problem of drugs is an old one. Former Foreign Minister Juan Antonio Tack and other persons were also mentioned. These attacks can be considered a conspiracy against our country, against the revolutionary government to damage the prestige of the Panamanian revolutionary regime as preliminary step to a coup. These attacks have been built on rumors and testimony from persons who make a statement and then never again appear elsewhere. This is the basis of the chicanery against General Torrijos and his family. However, practically throughout the American continent, including the United States, no other country has been as harsh as Panama in the repression of drug trafficking. They know this in the Senate; it was confirmed during the closed-door session it held. On the other hand, with all the vigilance they claim they have, all sorts of drugs are being smuggled into the United States. While in Panama, all drugs coming through our territory are intercepted by our agents from the Foreign Ministry, the National Department of Investigation [DENI] and especially from the National Guard G-2. It has reached the point where drug traffickers prefer not to stop in Panama because they consider our territory very hostile to drug trafficking.

Obviously, Panama did not do this because drug consumption is an important problem in our country--fortunately it is not, drug consumption in our country is minimal; it is not a national problem as it is in the United States--but because the Panamanian Government cannot permit our isthmus to be used as a bridge for the smuggling of drugs that are going to harm the health, family and stability of young people; in this case, particularly U.S. young people. Why? Because in the fight against drug trafficking there must be a spirit of solidarity among the various countries since the damage that is done to the youth of one country has subsequent repercussions in harming the youths of other countries. Therefore, there is an alliance of many governments of the world to fight drug trafficking.

In that fight against drug trafficking, Panama has been recognized as one of the countries which has acted with the greatest firmness on the American continent. Many or most of those whom we have arrested for drug trafficking are U.S. citizens whom we have turned over to U.S. authorities for prosecution. This had to be stated in the Senate's closed session.

Therefore, that show of convening a closed session was not worrisome to us with regard to the value of its objectives. It could not be so because we knew it was a political show against the Panamanian Government and essentially against General Torrijos and his family and because, in that closed door session, Panama's action in repressing drug trafficking during all these years of revolutionary process would necessarily have to be noted. That is why one of the senators said angrily after leaving the closed session that nothing had been presented there and why was his time wasted with such foolishness. Therefore, at no time did the subject worry us. Moreover, we disregarded the opinions of all those who wanted the revolutionary process to confront at the government level the U.S. Senate because that would mean falling precisely into the trap of those who oppose the treaty. The purpose was precisely to turn the drug debate into the most important issue so that the U.S. people would forget the importance of the debate on the treaties.

But, on the other hand, this does not mean that General Torrijos, his family and those of us who have been with him during all these stormy years, and who know what kind of family it is, composed mostly of distinguished teachers, and who had the honor of knowing his parents, also teachers, having to maintain an eloquent silence and having to face a closed-door session convened as a show in the United States, have not experienced deep feelings and deep wounds in a person and a family which has always been dignified, respected and esteemed in our country. [as heard] But those wounds do not come from the show. They do not come from the closed-door session. They do not come from the fact that the U.S. ultraconservative groups use those tricks, as they are using other tricks, to present amendments to the treaty, however ridiculous they are. No these wounds come from the fact that at this time there are still Panamanians who, blinded by their sectarian political passion or their opposition to the revolutionary government or because they see their hopes of conspiracy frustrated, repeat those slanders and insults against a man who has served this country during 12 consecutive years, sacrificing his personal comfort and tranquillity. To such a man and such a family it is logical that there should be deep feelings, but not of humiliation because in the national liberation struggle the U.S. ultraconservative groups can never humiliate our people, our government, General Torrijos' family and General Torrijos, our chief of government. Although it is not a feeling of humiliation, it is a wound because it is an attack on the most valuable aspect of an individual, which is his dignity. Therefore, he believes that this attack against him and his family is exclusively due to the position he occupies and the struggle he wages. If he had been a chief of government who had been genuflecting before the United States and a chief of government just so that the national anthem would be played each time he attended any event, he and his family would not have had this problem nor would that closed session had been convened.

Therefore, this man believes that in those past 10 years he has completly given himself to the struggle for our country's liberation and for our economic and political development. It is time that those sectors, those groups, those big masses of our people and those professionals who are aware of the historic and political path taken by this country under his leadership and inspiration carry out a true national mobilization, denying all these slanders and giving firm support to the Panamanian revolutionary process.

That is why we feel that this congress of the Broad Front of Professionals and the activities to be carried out on 8 March, Women's Day, which will gather the most notable of our women, will be the real answer that our people, professionals, workers and masses will give to all those foreign or national individuals who believe that this revolutionary government, its chief of government and his family are not capable of withstanding all those traps, slanders and diatribes. We are going to show that not only can we withstand all these traps, but that our country can assume all the upright positions necessary to make it firmly understood that the basic, fundamental and sole purpose of our revolutionary process and chief of government is to obtain our fatherland's national liberation and to end the humiliation of having part of its territory under foreign jurisdiction. That is the real situation under which we are living, distinguished professionals. That is the situation in which the political leadership of the revolutionary process is acting.

We believe that during the next elections, with the past 6 years of experience in the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, we will be able to delve deeper into the process of political, economic and social development of our country.

On the other hand, as Dr Renato Pereira said, if the treaties are in effect approved in the U.S. Senate, then a new gateway will open in the history of our country, a new gateway not only in the sense of the recovery of our national dignity by setting a specific deadline for the conclusion of foreign occupation and the return of the canal to the Republic of Panama, but rather a new gateway in history in the sense that it places on the shoulders of our country, on the shoulders of our people and notably on the shoulders of our professional people new responsibilities, new challenges which range from strictly economic problems to the social and political changes that will take place in our country when what is now called the Canal Zone becomes integrated into our homeland.

At this time when the Senate debates are underway, we want to point out that certain extremely conservative groups in the United States are attacking with all their weapons--as one senator has just told the others--the route to liberation that Panama has chosen is the Torrijos-Carter treaty. At the same time, we have to admit that President Carter, his advisers and a large number of U.S. senators are acting with great dignity and steadfastness. Those who are hearing the broadcasts of the Senate debates can realize that many of these senators are making statements that refer to historical and political facts. This has great importance because we may be more familiar with this type of situation in our country since we have been the ones to feel humiliated, offended and affected. This has compelled us to become deeply immersed in the historical and political reality of our country.

However, in the United States, the senators' statements are performing a major task for a people who did not know the depth of the dramatic situation of the Panama Canal and who, perhaps for the first time in the entire history of their country, are hearing in the voice of their own senators about the situation that Panama has experienced in its relationship with the United States as far as the existence of the Panama Canal and the Panama Canal Zone is concerned.

That is why we believe that, in addition to the fact that these senators and President Carter and his advisers are acting with steadfastness and dignity, they are doing another great service to our country and our people. With the authority that they have, their knowledge and the posts they serve, for the first time in history they are telling the American people the facts about what the past relationship between our country and the northern nation has been like. We believe that it is very important to point this out because it will allow us to see how the U.S. power structure becomes divided into the extremely conservative groups who want to maintain the status quo in their relationship with Panama and those who deem it necessary to establish a new, changing relationship with our two countries. It will also allow us to see how all those senators who support the Torrijos-Carter treaty have been identifying with the trade union, student and professional groups in the United States, while the extreme conservatives have been gradually identifying with that country's most reactionary groups to the extent that one of those polls or surveys that they usually conduct has noted that many of the senators who oppose the Torrijos-Carter treaty are generally the same senators who oppose labor laws in the United States, social welfare laws and anything else that might mean an advancement in the United States in economic improvement or social equality for the various ethnic groups that make up that country. It will also allow us to see how these extremely conservative groups have been identifying with groups of Panamanians--some who live in the United States and others who live here--who agree with the extremely conservative groups in their intention to maintain a Canal Zone under U.S. jurisdiction in our country.

Those over there and the ones here blinded or myopic as a result of their political frustrations, I repeat, bear out the fact that right now, both here in Panama and in the United States, all those progressive sectors interested in bringing about transformations for a more equalitarian treatment are gathering in one group.

Meanwhile, those who either there or here want this country to retain its present condition and the traditional form of government typical of the years prior to 1968, along with the privileges and benefits it represented, as well as those over there who want to maintain the present situation not only in order to retain their jurisdiction over the Canal Zone but also to subject our country once again to the dictates of U.S. policy and to put an end to the political independence that our country has had for the past 10 years to carry out its domestic projects and to develop its international relations, are gathering in the opposite camp.

Distinguished professionals, I formally declare this first congress of the broad front open. I present my apologies and thank you for the patience you have shown in listening to this speech. We wanted to take advantage of this opportunity, I repeat, to reiterate in the name of the revolutionary government and in the name of Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, our chief of government and the leader of our revolution, that our country's revolutionary process is developing without sectarianism and with a broad attitude; that it desires and encourages the true cooperation and participation of all of our country's professionals and of all those men and women who wish to participate actively in reaching the goals of national liberation and our country's true development in the educational, social, political and economic areas. Thank you very much. [applause]

Broad Front Congress Closes

PA071417Y Panama City MATUTINO 6 Mar in Spanish pp 1-A, 8-B PA

[Article by Manuel Santamaria Llamas]

[Text] The first national congress of the Broad Front of Professionals closed on Saturday afternoon with the approval of almost a dozen resolutions analyzing national problems and recommending solutions, and expressing support for the national government in its efforts to attain a new treaty and full sovereignty over the Panamanian nation.

Meeting for 3 days at the Justo Arosemena Palace, more than 2,000 professionals from throughout the country established their organization and laid the groundwork for their goals.

Setting aside protocol, the executive committee headed by Dr Renato Pereira invited Berta A. Gonzalez, professor of the David Regional University Center, to officially close the congress.

In her speech, Gonzalez said that in less than 6 months the organization has satisfactorily fulfilled one of its main phases--incorporating broad professional sectors of all fields of activity into the task of studying national problems for the purpose of deepening the social achievements promoted by the leadership of the revolutionary process headed by Gen Omar Torrijos.

She added that with the completion of that phase, the Broad Front of Professionals has to fulfill new tasks in order to advance to a higher quantitative and qualitative level. She referred to the need to strengthen the organic structure of the organization, making the necessary efforts to implement the agreements of the congress and maintaining as a primary goal the strengthening and deepening of the revolutionary process on the basis of promoting unity.

She indicated that the second national congress of the Broad Front of Professionals will be held in Azuero Peninsula next year and will meet the expectations of all professionals.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT LEADER CLARIFIES PARTY POSITION

PA0/1709Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 7 Mar 78 p 6 PA

[Communique issued by Christian Democratic Party Secretary General Emilio Veces B. on 6 March 1978]

[Text] As secretary general of the Panamanian Christian Democrats who are aware of the respect which the public owes us, we consider it necessary to make the following comments on recent articles received from international news agencies and published by LA REPULICA:

1. Christian Democrats believe that those who support the present government system find General Torrijos' figure "necessary" in order to maintain their bureaucratic positions.

2. The Christian Democrats believe that the country's fate should not be left solely in the hands of those who have held power autocratically for over 9 years and that, for this reason, it is necessary that there be alternative systems of power which are different from those which the above-mentioned persons wish to maintain at any cost.

To create these alternative power systems, it would be necessary to:

A. Provide for free democratic interplay by the country's political parties and organized groups;

B. Effectively separate the powers of the state into executive, judiciary and legislative branches, a separation which can be achieved through constitutional reform or through the election of a constituent assembly.

C. Grant a specific function in Panamian society to the National Guard, without the belligerent characteristics shown by the institution at present; and

D. Grant full public liberties, without which no alterntive would be feasible.

[signed] Emilio Veces B., secretary general, Panamanian Christian Democratic Party

BELIZE

PRICE LEAVES FOR VENEZUELA, GUYANA, TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

FL080138Y Belize City Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The honorable prime minister, Mr George Price, will visit Venezuela, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. The honorable prime minister departed Belize this morning aboard a flight of Varig Airline. During his absence Deputy Prime Minister Carl L.B. Rogers will act as prime minister.

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT TO 'FREEZE' RELATIONS WITH CUBA, USSR

PA071937Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1715 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 7 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The next government of Costa Rica will "freeze" relations with Cuba and the USSR at their present level. Foreign Minister-designate Rafael Calderon said today that diplomatic relations with the USSR will be maintained, but that there will be no move toward strengthening them. He also reiterated the statement made some days ago by President-elect Rodrigo Carazo that diplomatic relations with Cuba would not be promoted.

The new government, which will begin its 4-year term on 8 May, interprets its election as a mandate to keep relations with those two countries unchanged, since during the electoral campaign its spokesmen repeatedly said that they had no wish to strengthen ties with the communist world. Carazo noted this after his election when he said that he would not seek diplomatic relations with Cuba.

At present Costa Rica's ties to the Caribbean island are limited to trade relations, with consulates established in each of the two capitals.

The foreign minister-designate, in discussing this matter, gave no other details, nor did he indicate whether the Costa Rican Embassy in Moscow would remain open within the framework of a plan being drafted by his government to reduce the number of diplomatic missions abroad and replace them with regional embassies assigned simultaneously to various countries.

EL SALVADOR

POLICE CHIEF ANNOUNCES ELECTION SECURITY MEASURES

PA080220Y San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 4 Mar 78 pp 4, 38 PA

[Text] As reported in LA PRENSA GRAFICA, the general director of the national police, Col Antonio Lopez A., yesterday announced strict security measures for the 12 March elections. He also announced the creation of police units in important towns of the country such as Juayua and Quezaltepeque.

Colonel Lopez noted that the police will enforce constitutional norms regarding the guarantees which security organizations must give to the people under any circumstance or situation. "This institution," Colonel Lopez said, "is working 24 hours a day to safeguard the lives and property of the citizens and to guarantee government security."

He added that the national police as well as the other security organizations are appropriately equipped and physically and morally prepared to render excellent security services before, during and after the 12 March elections. He described the role of the security bodies during the elections as being guarantors of the people's will so that it is honored and respected.

As has been done in previous elections, the sale of liquor, campaigning and any kind of activity that may disrupt public order will be banned 48 hours before the elections. The ban will be closely controlled by the security bodies.

GUATEMALA

INCIDENTS CONTINUE IN WAKE OF 5 MARCH ELECTIONS

ACAN on Congress' Role

PA071554Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1543 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[By Alberto Flores of ACAN-EFE]

[Text] Guatemala City, 7 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--As returns of Sunday's elections keep coming in today, Tuesday, the prediction that the absolute winner will be abstentionism gains credence. This means that the National Congress will again elect the next president from between the two of the three military candidates with the most votes.

According to partial returns, ultrarightist candidate Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia has a slight edge over center coalition candidate Gen Romera Lucas Garcia. Christian Democratic Candidate Gen Ricard Peralta Mendez, Peralta Azurdia's nephew, is far behind in the vote count, and it appears that Congress will choose between the first two.

Abstentionism, including null or blank votes, is approaching 60 percent of the registered 1.8 million voters.

According to the National Electoral Council, the average number of votes in each voting booth--of 500 registered voters--was 200.

With nearly 50 percent of the votes counted, Colonel Peralta Azurdia has 171,951 votes. In second place is Gen Lucas Garcia with 169,811 votes (only 2,000 votes difference). Christian Democrat Peralta Mendez so far has 118,695 votes throughout the country.

Experts believe it will be very difficult for any of them to obtain a large enough advantage over their rivals at the end of the vote count--receiving more than half of the total number of votes--to avoid congressional intervention.

Peralta Breaks Into Tribunal

PA071851Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1835 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 7 Mar (LATIN)--Rightist candidate Col Ricardo Peralta Azurdia broke into the Electoral Tribunal at the head of a group of 20 armed men a short time after the tribunal announced that he had been surpassed in the counting of Sunday's votes. Eyewitnesses said that Peralta supporters brandished pistols and light machineguns and kicked down the door to the electoral registry. They went directly to the office of Tribunal President Arturo Maldonado de la Cerda.

This happened shortly after the tribunal released new returns giving Gen Romero Lucas Garcia, the government-supported candidate, 230,532 votes and Peralta Azurdia 230,020.

Other witnesses said that Peralta, who headed a military government here for 3 years after the 1963 coup, was not carrying a weapon.

Maldonado de la Cerda is a member of the National Liberation Movement (MLN), an extreme rightist party which backs Peralta Azurdia.

The armed breakin at the Electoral Tribunal is the second incident after yesterday's action by MLN Chairman Mario Sandoval Alarcon, who is the country's outgoing vice president.

Gunmen Attack Peralta

PA071920Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala City--One passerby died and two were wounded in Guatemala when gunmen fired at the headquarters of candidate Col Alfredo Enrique Peralta Azurdia, who was not on the premises at the time. No one in the building was hurt.

According to police, the attackers fired with automatic weapons from a moving automobile. They said that Carlos Obdulio Alcana Canales, 31, died, and a university student and a woman were wounded.

MLN Spokesman's Statement

PA080149Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0049 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 7 Mar (AFP)--The death of a man as a result of an alleged machinegun attack on the home of Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia, presidential candidate during recent elections, was officially denied today. Peralta Azurdia was supported by the rightist National Liberation Movement [MLN], and up to this morning, he had the majority of the votes in the returns. Reports broadcast abroad indicated that one person had died outside Peralta Azurdia's home during an armed attack.

A spokesman for Peralta Azurdia, Col Manuel Noriega Natareno, told AFP that no incidents had occurred inside or outside the presidential candidate's home. However, Noriega Natareno noted that there could be some confusion because a man was gunned down and another was wounded on Monday night close to the MLN headquarters in this city under mysterious circumstances.

PR Secretary, MLN Director in Fistfight

PA071934Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1920 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 7 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Jorge Garcia Granados, secretary of the Revolutionary Party [PR], and Julio Pivaral, director of the anticommunist National Liberation Movement [MLN], engaged in a fistfight at noon today in the Guatemalan Electoral Tribunal where the count of the Sunday presidential election votes is being carried out with a few disruptions. The fistfight started when Pivaral publicly accused the centrist PR of committing fraud in the vote recount. According to the MLN leader, voters are being subtracted from Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia and given to the "official" candidate, Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia, nominated by the ruling Democratic Institutional Party and the Revolutionary Party.

In the office of the Electoral Tribunal, President Arturo Maldanado de la Cerda and Pivaral argued heatedly, voicing mutual accusations of fraud, and then went to direct action. Their supporters had to step in to prevent the two men or their bodyguards from resorting to their weapons.

The tempers of the supporters of Peralta Azurdia, who appears to be winning, and those of General Lucas, who is close behind, are very heated today as both are claiming victory.

MLN Supporters Prepare March

PA071949Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1937 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 7 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The youth sector of the anticommunist National Liberation Movement [MLN] announced this afternoon that it had ordered all its supporters throughout the republic to march to Guatemala City to demand recognition of the electoral victory of their candidate, Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia.

MLN press secretary Rudy Fuentes Sandoval added that MLN members throughout the country "are prepared to do anything" to have Peralta Azurdia's victory declared.

Fuentes added that the MLN members decided to take action today because it was discovered that fraud is being committed at the telegraph offices, where electoral results sent from the interior are being changed in favor of Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia, candidate of the Democratic Institutional Party-Revolutionary Party coalition.

Peralta Azurdia Demands Recognition

PA07[illegible]Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1950 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[By [illegible] Barrera]

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 7 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia, presidential candidate of the anticommunist National Liberation Movement [MLN], today met with President Gen Kjell Eugenio Laugerud to demand that Laugerud recognize his victory in Sunday's elections.

In his interview with Laugerud, Peralta Azurdia told the president his victory was evident in both the capital and the countryside and consequently asked to be proclaimed president-elect.

President Laugerud repeated to Peralta Azurdia his promise of handing over power to the person elected according to the popular will and without fraud.

The 70-year-old Peralta Azurdia said he was convinced of his electoral victory and that on 1 July he would carry out a government of honesty and armed combat against common crime and political violence.

The MLN candidate, who governed Guatemala as chief of state from 1963 to 1966 after overthrowing President Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes, said that was sure Congress would declare him president in the runoff to be held if no candidate obtains an absolute majority.

On his part, Gen Lucas Romeo, 54 years old and candidate of the ruling Democratic Institutional Party and the centrist Revolutionary Party and a former national defense minister, claimed this afternoon that according to his data he is the victor in Sunday's elections. He said that as new returns come in from the countryside and the capital it will be seen that in fact he has a wide margin over Peralta Azurdia and is thus the victor.

Candidates' Preelection Interviews

PA071614Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 6 Mar 78 PA

[Interviews conducted 4 and 5 March by reporter Jose Hernandez with presidential candidates Gen Riccardo Peralta Mendes of Christian Democratic Party and Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia of Democratic Institutional Party-Revolutionary Party coalition--with recorded excerpts]

[Excerpts] Guatemalan Christian Democratic Party candidate Gen Ricardo Peralta Mendez told this station that he is prepared to prevent a repetition of the 1974 fraud known in that country as the Guatelazo. He added that he would reestablish relations with Panama which were suspended following the problem with Belize.

[begin recording--Question] General, last night there was increasing political division within your party. There were even groups who were demanding an annulment of the voting because you had been nominated in a fraudulent convention. What is your opinion on this?

[Answer] That is a clumsy and absurd maneuver of the frustrated political leaders of Guatemala who have a messianic concept that if they do not participate the country will sink. I was nominated as a presidential candidate 8 months ago. In those 8 months, they had sufficient time to make the charges they pretend to make now. If you look at that document, which I unfortunately do not have with me, it shows clearly that the signatures were altered. The signatures were taken from other documents. Furthermore, when they handed me the document, there were two representatives there whose signatures on the document were altered, the brothers [name indistinct]. They gave me their true signatures, and it could be clearly seen that they had been altered. Therefore, those are last-minute maneuvers, the thrashings of a drowning man, as we say.

[Question] Another question: So far you have said that you respect the voting results. What would you do if the Guatelazo of 1974 were repeated?

[Answer] I believe that we have taken every action to prevent a Guatelazo. I hope it will not occur, but if someone should be senseless enough to pretend to make a Guatelazo, he would be helping to set fire to Guatemala. It is no longer possible for the Guatemalan people to accept another fraud.

[Question] You have described yourself as a progressive leader. Could you tell us what your foreign policy would be regarding socialist countries, for example?

[Answer] In the international field we will have a complete opening. I believe that Guatemala has remained isolated from the world in the last few years and my purpose is to integrate it into the modern world by establishing good relations with all countries which would be suitable from the cultural, economic or political viewpoints.

[Question] President Laugerud said last night that some parties had brought people from the interior of the country to form shock groups. What can you tell us about this?

[Answer] Well, at least regarding the parties which support my candidacy, no, we have not brought any in. Our basis of support lies precisely with the people of Guatemala, all these people you see here this morning voting so happily. [end recording]

Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia, who, according to the latest wire reports, is leading the vote count started at noon today, granted us an interview at his country home.

[Begin recording--Question] We would like to have your opinion on the Guatemalan elections, which will end tomorrow. In your speeches you said that initially you would not offer a government program, that you would first completely reorganize the government. Something similar has been said in the newspapers. Nevertheless, the country has social problems that require action. What is your plan to solve these problems?

[Answer] My government plan explains how all the social and economic problems of Guatemala can be solved, because I have already visited all the municipalities of the country, which none of the other candidates has done. The plan contains everything that would be beneficial to Guatemala.

[Question] Do you contemplate any change in the administrative and political structures?

[Answer] Affirmative. My government plan includes the decentralization of the capital. This is the problem we are now experiencing, the magnitude of the capital. We are considering a minimum of seven development centers in different regions of the country to be able to take industry and development out of Guatemala City, because bigness is going to be a serious future problem. The city is spreading out and the municipality will not be able to provide the services required.

[Question] Regarding the peasants, do they have problems regarding agrarian reform?

[Answer] I have a peasant origin and have experienced the different stages of our agrarian reform. I consider that on this occasion, in addition to giving land to individuals, we are going to provide land for cooperatives, on a collective basis, because I believe in cooperatives. I believe this would be the solution for the country in agrarian matters.

[Question] In this respect, it is known that you are a prosperous farmer. Would you be willing to give or share some of your land for others to till?

[Answer] As a matter of fact, no, because the land that I have is inherited. I cannot give away what is shared among six brothers. We have it completely under cultivation, and if we give it away, we do not know what the new owners will use it for. Also, we need this land to provide a livelihood for six brothers. This land now support approximately 20 families.

[Question] General, your proposals will require foreign aid and financing, the participation of foreign capital. As a result of the earthquake, Guatemala's foreign debt increased greatly. Will you adopt any measures regarding this problem in your government program?

[Answer] The country's credit is not exhausted. However, I do believe that foreign indebtedness should be only in those cases which are self-financing. I plan to request foreign loans to construct hydroelectric plants. Guatemala's development will depend a great deal on having sufficient electric energy.

[Question] In the case of Belize, some political leaders have told us that Guatemala has lost its moral authority to negotiate with Belize for a definite peace or solution. What is your opinion?

[Answer] I comply with the construction. The Guatemalan constitution says that Belize is Guatemalan territory. In another article it says that the Guatemalan Army is entrusted with maintaining the integrity of our territory. Therefore, the moment Great Britain gives Belize independence, the Guatemalan Army will attack Belize. Otherwise, there is no justification for having an army. Furthermore, it is not a moral right; Belize belongs to Guatemala. It is ours, and therefore we are notprepared to let anyone take Belize from us.

[Question] The situation regarding the Panama Canal is close to a decision. If it should happen that the decision goes against our country, would you be prepared to join the struggle for the recovery of our resources?

[Answer] I am in agreement. I am first of all a Central American, and Central Americans consider Panama our brother, and I support the rights that the Panamanians have.

[Question] Would you be willing to resume diplomatic relations with Panama?

[Answer] Affirmative, very pleased to do so. [end recording]

Electoral Registry Reports Returns

PA080003Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Here is the latest report on the general election returns supplied by the Electoral Registry Office: 230,532 votes for Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas, 230,020 votes for Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia and only 166,869 votes for Gen Ricardo Peralta Mendez.

New Vote Count Ordered

PA081313Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1218 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[By Antonio Monzon]

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 8 Mar (LATIN)--The Council of State last night ordered a new count of the votes cast in Sunday's general elections, which had appeared to show Romeo Lucas Garcia, candidate of the Revolutionary and Democratic Institutional parties (PID-PR), in the lead.

Electoral registrar Arturo Maldonado de la Cerda said that the council decided to make a new count because there is evidence that the figures have been "inflated."

Rudy Fuentes Sandoval, representative of the National Liberation Movement [MLN] on the council, told LATIN that it has been proved that the returns cabled to the council had been altered. Because of this new incident, the vote count has been suspended not only in the central district, but nationwide, which means that the results of last Sunday's voting will not be released for 36 or 48 hours, Fuentes Sandoval said.

Deputy Rodrigo Valladares Molina, a prominent MLN member, said that the results are being "inflated" to the extent that over 700,000 votes have been reported, while the public is well aware that there was almost total voter abstentionism in the country on Sunday. Valladres Molina told LATIN that an unacceptable fraud is being carried out. He presented certain records prepared by his party--which supports Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia--that give the MLN 39,000 votes in Huehuetenango, while the official registry gives the party 50,000 votes.

NICARAGUA

POLICE ACTION PROTESTED; RED CROSS AWAITS PERMISSION

PA071458Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Intervention by police on the northern road when a bus was set on fire has caused an outbreak of public protest. After several days of agitation caused by public protests, the incident was reported only today.

Meanwhile, explosions of an unspecified nature have been reported in Managua.

The Red Cross is still waiting to be allowed to visit jails in Managua following reports that several women arrested for politically motivated crimes are sick. A delegation of the International Red Cross met with Somoza 2 weeks ago and Somoza gave his consent for the visits, but it has not been officially confirmed. Red Cross representatives of Swiss nationality will carry out the visits.

MILITARY PATROLS RAID CARAZO UNIVERSITY

PA071742Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1716 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 7 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Last night military patrols raided the university center of Carazo, south of Managua, it was reported today. According to information given newsmen by Juan Sanchez Flores, director of the regional university center, two patrols unjustifiably entered the university in Jinotepe, 45 km south of this capital. The approximately 500 university and Alfonso Urroz Martinez Institute students were at class as usual when the military broke in. The center director protested immediately to Col Miguel Blessing, the local commander, who was "unhappy" with the military's action. According to the same reports, the commander ordered the military who made the rash raid restricted to quarters. After the incident, the university center director said he was reviewing "the incident of violence to determine if an official statement was necessary."

It was also reported that there is a verbal agreement between Professor Sanchez Flores and Colonel Blessing that the five wounded persons in the hospital will not be taken to jail after their release. The agreement was made public after it was rumored that the five would be imprisoned when they left the hospital. After last night's incident, the situation is calm today in the regional university center.

ALMEIDA SPEAKS ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THIRD EASTERN FRONT

FL0700430Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1504 GMT 5 Mar 78 FL

[Speech by PCC Politburo member Juan Almeida Bosque at ceremony marking 20th anniversary of Third Eastern Front held at Cruce de los Banos, Santiago de Cuba Province--live]

[Text] Comrades members of the Politburo and Central Committee, veterans of the rebel army, relatives of those killed on the Third Front, peasants of Tercer Frente, members of youth column No 3, dear comrades:

The years of the revolution are passing rapidly in the lives of all of us, and today we are gathered to observe the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Mario Munoz Third Eastern Front. Perhaps the years are making us a little more sentimental. Perhaps, with the passing of time, remembrances become more deeply embedded in our minds. However, I want to tell you, above all, how much emotion and affection we felt in again touring and being here in these areas which at one time we saw under quite different circumstances and which make us recall how much our country, our people and this region have changed in comparison to those times of the rebel army and the struggle for independence of the fatherland and for the revolution.

We are commemorating [the anniversary] here in the capital of this municipality, which was the seat of our headquarters from mid-August 1958 until the last days of the final offensive against the tyranny. It is a place that has been correctly taken as the symbolic center of the Third Front. Thus, we are gathered on the exact date of its founding, 5 March, but this is not the site of the first camp of our Santiago de Cuba column, which was Puerto Arturo.

We have seen the museum. We take with us a magnificent impression of the effort done to give this place its original appearance and convert it into an installation that could serve, and be visited, as the place where the most exact exhibit possible can be shown of the struggles waged in these fields and mountains. This work to conserve and recover all places, documents and objects which might have historic value and could serve, not to pay homage to any of us, but to maintain eternally alive the memory of those less fortunate comrades who gave their lives for the revolution and, above all, to contribute to the moral and patriotic education we want to give the children and youth who are growing up, is important and very useful. In our judgment, the important thing is that the museum not only display the information on what this Third Front was, its troops and the actions in which it was involved, but also that it reflect with maximum accuracy that environment of sacrifice, tension, patriotism and austere life full of privations by which our rebel army was always characterized.

This year, on the other hand, is full of commemorations. In a few days we will not only remember the centennial of the protest of Baragua and later the 20th anniversary of the assault on Moncada barracks, which this time our people will link to the activities of the 11th [World Student and Youth] Festival; in addition to these dates, we will have the 20th anniversary of important events and battles which in 1958 pointed out the inexorable advance of our independence army, of the revolutionary movement and of the people until the historic victory of 1 January, whose 20th anniversary we will also observe properly. Within these events, in mid-February we commemorated the second battle of Pino de Agua, and now in early March, the people's warm homage turns to the invasion by the rebel army's two columns which founded the Second and Third fronts. It must be said that these two events are inseparably linked.

From the beginning of the struggles in the mountains, when our fighters were only a few squads moving in a single column, Fidel's plan was based on the certainty that the revolutionary army could grow and arm itself amid combat and develop as a force capable of confronting and defeating the army of the tyranny. His idea was that the Sierra Maestra First Front, specifically the Jose Marti column No 1, had to be something like the forger or the school from which the war would be extended progressively to new territories. As a general rule, however, the rifles and bullets of the revolution were taken from the enemy in the fighting, and our troops, like the patriots of the last century, did not have regular logistics or supply lines from abroad. Each step to form new columns and new fields of operations always depended on the principal victories which, under extreme and difficult conditions, we enjoyed throughout the war.

That was how the history of the rebel army was written. That was how we developed our guerrilla doctrine and learned to defeat an enemy against which we were always at a great material disadvantage and which, until the final hours when it became definitively demoralized, offered us stubborn resistance at each battle.

Just 7 months after the setback in Alegria de Pio, our troops were reduced to only seven men armed with rifles. And after attaining the important and costly victory in Uvero and still under very difficult circumstances, Fidel had already ordered the creation of a second rebel column and sent it to operate in a new zone east of Pico Turquino. Heading this column was the first of our comrades to earn the grade of major in the struggle: Ernesto Che Guevara. [prolonged applause]

Later, after 15 months of campaigns in Sierra Maestra, the resounding victories attained by our combatants under the direct command of Fidel in the second attack on Pino de Agua, where 33 rifles, 5 machineguns and other equipment were seized, opened new possibilities to expand the rebel territory.

Once the western area of the Sierra Maestra was completely liberated, and with the arms we had seized and keeping in mind the growth of the insurrectional struggle that was taking place throughout the country, as well as the preparations for an attempted general revolutionary strike which was to take place in early April, our commander in chief decided that the time had come to open two new battle fronts against the tyranny in the eastern province where the Batista regime had concentrated its principal forces. It was in this way when, on 1 March, after meeting with Fidel at Che's camp in Mesa, the column of Comrade Raul and ours undertook the long trek along the Sierra to Puerto Arturo, where we separated. Upon arrival in this zone, the first activity of our column, consisting of 53 men, was to undertake certain movements to help Raul's column in the dangerous (Cruce de los Llanos) and the central highway. This helped that column to move into the territory which beginning at that time would be the Frank Pais Second Front and in this way to undertake one of the most brilliant and important actions in the history of our revolution.

The Third Front initiated in those days what we could call the first phase of its existence. It was a time when it was necessary to provide all possible support to the announced general strike. At that time, Fidel even sent Camilo [Cienfuegos] to operate in the central plains of the province. For our part, we began to attack enemy movements along the highway. We carried out sabotage. And on the night of 10-11 April, we carried out the most important action of that period, the simultaneous attack on (Entronque de Vergadero) and El Cobre. For the first time, the army waged battle against the Santiago de Cuba forces, shaking the city with the explosion of the tyranny's magazine, which we had blown up after taking over the town of El Cobre.

With the failure of the strike, very bitter and dangerous days came for the revolution. The regime's offensive also came against the Sierra Maestra First Front. With most of our third column and with the best weapons available to us, we had to return, called back by Fidel, to defend the first free territory in Cuba and go on to fulfill the pledge which the commander in chief had made to the people--that that fortress would never be defeated and that the fatherland would be free or the last combatant would die.

However, when we left on 18 May the Third Front did not cease to exist or to fight. A courageous group of officers and combatants remained here and, although ill-equipped and subjected to the continuous actions of the enemy troops and air force, it acted exemplarily and maintained high the standards of this revolutionary bulwark. Orlando Fonseca and other comrades were killed fighting heroically in (Los Tress Pechos). Fierce fighting took place in (El Loro). One of the most impressive events of the war took place amid the fighting in Fidel: The younger of two rebel brothers surnamed (Robert), natives of Candonga, was mortally wounded. The older brother went to his rescue and both were killed almost simultaneously.

The history of our rebel army contains many such pages that demonstrate the will and courage with which its combatants fought. With less than 300 armed men, Fidel organized the defenses of the headquarters, the Radio Rebelde radio station and other installations. The offensive by about 10,000 soldiers of the tyranny, supported by the air force, tanks, artillery and navy units, advanced with difficulty for 35 days until it arrived a short distance from its objective. And, starting with the Santo Domingo battle, our furious counterattack lasted 35 days, at the end of which the Batista army had been thrown out of Sierra Maestra after suffering more than 1,000 casualties, including more than 400 prisoners, and leaving 507 weapons in our hands. [applause]

As Fidel said in those days, the mercenary rifles of the tyranny crashed against idealistic rifles that are not paid. Military equipment or the academy or the most modern weapons were of no use to them because when military men do not defend the fatherland but attack it, and when they do not defend their people but enslave them, they cease to be an institution and become an armed gang, they cease to be military men and become criminals. They cease to deserve not only their wages, which they take from the sweat of the people but even the sun that gives them shelter in the land they are bloodying with dishonor and cowardice.

The defeat of the dictatorship in the summer offensive in Uvero was a decisive factor which allowed our commander in chief to put into practice his plan to take the offensive as soon as the enemy began to weaken. Our troops, reinforced with new forces, were able to return to the Third Front on 16 August. We established our camp in La Lata. The vanguard column commanded by Guillermo Garcia, column 9 which was to operate in the zone of Caney, El Cristo and Puerto Boniato, and column 10 with its base in Loma del Gato, also arrived in the area in the following weeks. With these forces we were able to carry out Fidel's instuctions to begin tightening the siege of Santiago de Cuba bit by bit until, toward the final days of the war, all military movements of the tyranny in our territory were paralyzed. [applause]

At the same time, five rebel columns including the famous troops of Camilo and Che, armed with the rifles seized from the army, left for Las Villas, northern Oriente and Camaguey. In the mountains of northern Oriente Province, the Second Front of Comrade Raul had developed into an impregnable, hardened, broad exemplarily organized bulwark of the revolution.

Great merit throughout the process which led to the crushing defeat of the tyranny belongs, in his own right, to Comrade Fidel, who [applause] was able to shape, in a strategic, coherent and unique plan, the action of the entire rebel army. Moreover, this plan decisively contributed to putting into practice--with his direct participation in command of all actions of the war--the fundamental direction of the rebel offensive from the Sierras toward the axis of the central highway and along the latter to Santiago de Cuba. In the latter setting alone, and in the wake of the momentous battle of Guisa waged in November 1958, all enemy troops from Bayamo to Santiago were defeated. The Batista army suffered about 1,000 casualties. More than 700 weapons were seized from it.

Fidel carefully drafted this plan. He kept in mind that the decisive battle for the revolution had to be waged in Oriente, where the [rebel] army was strongest and the tyranny had grouped its most attacked units, consisting of a total of some 17,000 soldiers. For their part, the Batista forces were concentrated primarily at two places: the Bayamo command center and the Santiago de Cuba garrison.

In order to defeat the enemy, the commander in chief ordered the Second Front forces to continue attacking and taking over all military posts in their territory; the Third Front columns to expand the siege of Santiago, thereby preventing the soldiers stationed in the city from leaving to help other posts; the rebel units in the center and west of the province to repel whatever reinforcements were attempted by land from Camaguey and, at the same time, to prevent any evacuation of enemy soldiers from Oriente territory.

Fidel's idea was to isolate and cut off the 17,000 Batista soldiers in Oriente without a single weapon escaping us. This was effectively accomplished. To achieve this, he also ordered traffic paralyzed and all exits and accesses to the cities cut. He ordered the rebel forces in Camaguey to support the battle in Oriente and the Camilo and Che columns, along with the other revolutionary forces in Las Villas, to cut off all roads, divide the island in two and, at the same time, to continue their offensive against the province's cities and garrisons.

This strategic plan was thoroughly fulfilled. The combatants of our Third Front had the satisfaction of performing their part with dignity.

The final months were a period of big actions for this front. In El Naranjal forces under the command of Guillermo Garcia and other chiefs destroyed an enemy column coming from Mafu. They wounded in action and took prisoner the lieutenant colonel who was commanding the enemy troops. He was the highest ranking officer taken prisoner by the revolutionary combatants. [applause]

We also remember the battle in La Aduana, which lasted 3 days; the one in Cruce de Jaymani on the central highway, where 67 enemy vehicles were set on fire; the seizure of Santa Rita: the attack on Ramon de Guaninao; the battle in El Cacao, and the actions in Dos Palmas, Charco Redondo, El Cristo, El Aji, Entronque de Los Banos, El Caney and elsewhere. During this period, our fighters carried out 73 sabotage operations on the central highway.

To have an idea of the fierce struggle and the circumstances under which the civilian population in these areas had to live, primarily the peasants, who gave everything with unforgettable generosity to help the revolution, let me just say that from the founding of the Third Front until the end of the war the free territory was subjected to aerial bombing and strafing a total of 320 times. I add to this that even under such conditions, 52 schools and 6 hospitals were created and put into operation on this front during the insurrectional period. The construction of roads and administration of justice were also organized.

After the battle of Guisa--in which several Third Front units, the first of which was the Calixto Garcia troops, participated in an outstanding way--a new event took place: the coordinated actions of the First and Third fronts in the attacks on and surrender of several important enemy garrisons. Thus came the fighting in San Jose del Retiro, Mafu, Baire Abajo, central Palma and Palma Soriano. Forces of the First, Second and Third fronts linked up for the first time between the latter city and San Luis, halting and eliminating reinforcements which tried to rescue the soldiers who were cut off in Palma. Simultaneously, columns 9 and 10 undertook numerous actions which completed the siege on the 5,000 soldiers in the Santiago de Cuba garrison. These were immobilized and prevented from leaving to help the besieged garrisons in the center of the province.

The Third Front, which was created as a result of Fidel's revolutionary concept and his will to take the offensive, performed with honor the mission which the commander in chief had assigned to it. It was one of the spearheads of the final victory of the Cuban people. [applause]

The tyranny collapsed. The thousand times heroic Oriente capital, city of the Moncada and of the 30 November [uprising], the glorious trench of Frank Pais and of so many valiant men, was occupied by the new liberators of the fatherland without a single shot being fired.

On 1 January 1959, or exactly 5 years, 5 months and 5 days after 26 July, Fidel could proclaim: At last we have finally arrived in Santiago. The road has been long, but we have arrived. This time the revolution will not be frustrated. Fortunately for Cuba, this time the revolution will really reach its conclusion. It will not be like 1895, when the Americans came and became masters of this country. They intervened at the last moment and later not even Calixto Garcia, who had struggled for 30 years, was allowed to enter Santiago de Cuba. [This time] there are no thieves, traitors or interventionists. This time it is indeed a revolution.

More than 19 years have passed since those historic moments, and the path that our socialist and internationalist fatherland has undertaken and the admirable work which our working people have done and are doing are the best confirmation of the words spoken then by the chief of the revolution. [applause] These mountains and plains of the Third Front territory, scenes in the past of latifundia, abuses of all types, almost absolute lack of every type of medical assistance and schools, isolation and lack of lines of communication, abandonment and neglect in which the peasants and other humble workers lived, today are a demonstration of the transformation effort of the revolution.

It is because of this present and the beautiful future that awaits us, which we must forge with our daily work and tenacity, that today we must remember with gratitude the comrades who made it possible with their lives. We could not mention all who died in this territory. But some of them can symbolize all of them, and we must remember their names with deep affection on this day. They are the heroic Capt Roberto Ramirez [applause]; the Fonseca brothers [applause]; Lt Evelio Rodriguez Curbelo [applause], who was a labor leader of advanced political ideas; Capt Emiliano Reyes, who was killed at Cautillo bridge [applause]; 1st Lt Antero Fernandez [applause], who was a Charco Redondo worker and died in glory at Playa Giron; and Alcibiades Bermudez [applause], one of the heroes in Guisa who died after the triumph of the revolution. [applause]

By the same token, we could not fail to remember today with our deepest admiration Captains (Cristogenos Virgera) [applause], founder of this front, and Roberto Pichardo [applause], comrades of [word indistinct] origin who initiated their revolutionary work in these mountains and were killed years later fighting with honor as internationalist soldiers for the independence of the peoples of Africa. [applause]

And above all we must remember that comrade of peasant origin who from the first days joined our small column in Sierra Maestra, went up the ranks one by one and earned the star of a rebel army major fighting on this Third Front, the internationalist hero who, along with Che, wrote an indelible page of self-denial, sacrifice and courage: Maj Vilo Acuna. [applause] Neither can we forget for a single minute that our most recent struggles are only a phase, only the culmination of the long history of sacrifices and battles for the liberty of the Cuban people, of which these fields of the Third Front were exceptional witnesses.

The Dominican (Marcan) brothers left from here, from the Jiguani (?hills) on 10 October to save the revolution which was at that time undergoing its more critical periods, and also the Dominican and legendary soldier of our independence Maximo Gomez. [applause] Here, on soil of this front, was shed the blood which cost the most to our fatherland--that of Carlos Manuel de Cespedes in San Lorenzo [applause] and of the master Jose Marti in Dos Rios. [applause]

These mountains provided shelter for our independence fighters for 30 years and these mountains saw the machete-carrying liberating forces of (Jesus Rabi), Bartolome Maso, Guillermo Moncada and many other forgers of our nation. Gen Antonio Maceo [applause] fought more than once on this territory and from here he left for the historic Baragua meeting with a group of loyal chiefs of the insurrection in Oriente.

We can never overlook the fact that we are continuators of those men and that the principal merit always belonged to them, who fought so much and were never able to see the real liberty of the fatherland. They, the more fortunate, fell on the fields of battle, others had to face the bitterness of seeing all their hopes and dreams frustrated.

We are the fortunate ones who, following in their footsteps and their example, and thanks, to a great extent, to the work they began, have had the privilege of finally seeing a truly free, worthy and sovereign Cuba. We have been able to reach this moment in which our people are masters of their country and can build with their own hands a different future for their sons. And, above all, we have been able to observe the marvelous spectacle of a revolutionary people who not only gained their independence but also have been able to cross the oceans to defend with their lives the independence and revolution of their brothers of other continents. [applause] What could be more emotional and more encouraging on a day like today--when we gather to commemorate the 20th anniversary of that episode in our struggles, when we remember our dead workers, when we remember the conditions of those days when we were just a handful of hungry men pursued by the enemy--than knowing that the flame of the revolution lighted in these mountains by our dear chief, Comrade Fidel [applause], has advanced so far and will continue ahead illuminating the paths of the independence and happiness of other peoples who are fighting imperialism, racism, acts of aggression and maneuvers of reactionaries.

Up there, at the highest point of the Majestic Pico Turquino, are recorded these immortal words of Marti: Scant as the mountains are the men who can see beyond and have the deep feeling for a nation or humanity.

The victorious revolution, socialism and Marxism-Leninism have taught all our people to feel and sacrifice themselves for the nation and for humanity. They have made them a patriotic and internationalist people. Like a column that is marching on the high mountains, we stopped today to look back and see how much we have crossed. But ahead remain an open path and sacred duties to fulfill with the world revolutionary movement. There remain summits of economic development and work to be done. There remain (?heights) of communist consciousness, culture and education to be climbed.

And, as in the war, the only thing we can say on an occasion such as this one to our comrades, promising youth and loyal peasants, is: Let us go on with Fidel and our party to continue and increasingly enhance the work of the revolution. [applause]

Long live the 20th anniversary of the Mario Munoz! [applause] Live forever the unforgettable heroes of the fatherland! [shouts of "viva," applause] Fatherland or death! [shouts of "venceremos," applause]

MEETING OF CUBAN-BELGIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION BEGINS

FL070047Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Mar 78 FL

[Lino Betancourt report]

[Text] The second meeting of the intergovernmental mixed commission for economic cooperation between Belgium and Cuba opened today in Havana. Questions relating to the intergovernmental financing between the two countries will be discussed as well as a review of commercial exchange, along with the industrial projects which are currently underway. Participating at this meeting are Jean de Bosompierre, ambassador on a special mission who heads the Belgian delegation; Belgian Ambassador to Cuba Victor Allard; Belgian foreign trade director (R. Hastain), and other officials from that country.

Present for Cuba are Julio Cesar Saladri, director of nonsocialist developed countries at the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, who heads the Cuban delegation; Cuban Ambassador to Belgium [as heard] (Gustavo Mazorra); (Hereida Echavarria), official at the Council of Ministers vice presidency in charge of basic industries; and other Cuban officials.

RAUL ROA MEETS WITH DELEGATION FROM SURINAM

FL071745Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Dr Raul Roa Garcia, member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State and vice president of the National People's Government Assembly, has received (Reuben Lee Pauw Sam), secretary general of the Surinamese People's Party, with whom he held a cordial talk on subjects of mutual interest to our two peoples, governments and parties. Also participating at the meeting was Comrade Jose Aranaburo, secretary of the national assembly, who briefed the Surinam delegation on the institutionalization process in our country and the establishment of people's government organizations at various levels.

MEETING OF FESTIVAL'S CULTURE SPECIALISTS OPENS

FL072001Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1904 GMT 7 Mar 78 FL

[Excerpt] The themesong of the 11th [World Youth and Students] Festival marked the end of the opening session of the meeting of festival's culture specialists, which began today at the main offices of the international preparatory committee [CIP] permanent commission on Calzada Avenue.

Luis Felipe Vazquez, Cuban representative to that international organization, made the opening remarks of the event. Present at the meeting were Culture Vice Minister Quintin Pino Machado and festival organizing committee vice presidents Juan Escalona and Mirta Rojas Rodriguez. Orosman Quintero, chief of programs of the organizing committee and representative of the bureaus of programs and relations of the CIP permanent commission, was also sitting in the presidium.

In his speech Luis Felipe Vazquez pointed out that the meeting's objective is to wind up preparations for the festival's cultural program. The Cuban representative said that the preparations are in the final phase, in both Cuba and elsewhere. He added that the political, cultural, sports, student and children's programs recently approved by the fourth CIP meeting are the main topics of the culture specialists' meeting opening today. We are sure, the Cuban representative pointed out, that the effort of the delegates to this meeting will assure the success of the festival's cultural program.

RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ MEETS WITH MOROCCAN DELEGATION

FL071849Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Mar 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has received Comrade Ali Yata, secretary general of the Moroccan Party for Progress and Socialism--PPS, at Jose Marti International Airport. The visitor heads a delegation which includes Politburo member Simon Levy and Central Committee Member Ahmed Salim Natifi, secretary of youth. PCC Central Committee member Antonio Enrique Lusson, Cuban-Arab Friendship Association president, and Claudio Ramos and Ernesto Abascal, section chief and official, respectively, at the foreign relations general department of the PCC Central Committee, were also present to receive the Moroccan PPS delegation, which was invited by the PCC.

HAVANA REPORTS ELECTION VIOLENCE IN GUATEMALA

FL061738Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Three people were killed and others were injured over the last 24 hours--possibly for political reasons--during the electoral period in Guatemala. Up to the moment there has not been any information on the results of the presidential elections held in Guatemala on Sunday. Meanwhile, the three presidential candidates, all military men, are at their respective political headquarters awaiting the initial returns. As soon as the voting ended last night, the Electoral Tribunal received numerous protests from political delegates and civic committees concerning irregularities committed during the voting.

BRIEFS

BAYAMO HARVEST MEETING--The People's Government Assembly of Bayamo municipality has agreed to respond to Fidel with a supreme work effort during the next 100 days of the sugar harvest. The agreement was adopted during this year's first ordinary session, which was attended by Guillermo Garcia, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of State. [Text] [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Feb 78 FL]

RAMIREZ CONGRATULATES CANECUTTERS--Jose Ramirez Cruz, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP], has sent greetings and congratulations to the members of the country's "millionaire" [canecutting] movement on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of its founding. He also greeted the members of the "movement for 40,000 arrobas" and the ANAP-Federation of Cuban Women Brigades in his closing remarks at the meeting held to examine the work of Matanzas Province's ANAP members in the harvest. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Mar 78 FL]

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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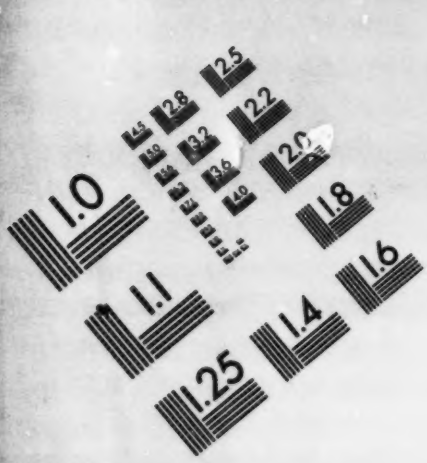

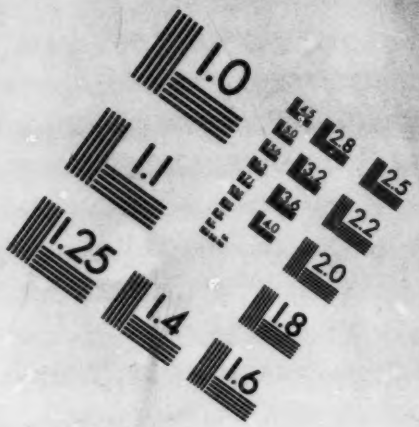

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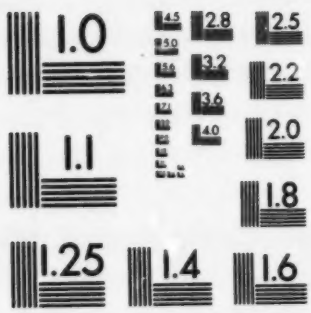

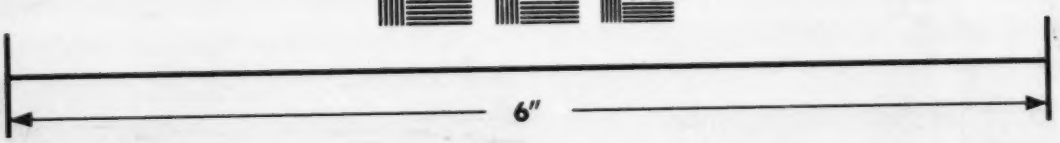

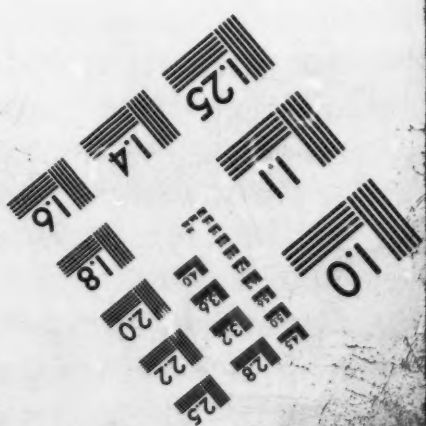

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